

Virus testing is 'failing,' leaving cases uncounted

By MIKE STOBBE and
MATTHEW PERRONE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Seven weeks have passed since the first U.S. case of coronavirus was announced, and the government is failing to account for what could be thousands of additional infections because of ongoing problems with testing.

"The system is not really geared to what we need right now," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top infectious disease expert at the National Institutes of Health. "That is a failing. It is a failing, let's admit it."

The effort initially was hobbled by delays in getting testing kits out to public health labs, but the stumbles have continued, leading scientists to conclude that the virus has taken root in more places than government officials say. Large-scale testing is a critical part of tracking the spread of infectious diseases and allocating resources for treatment. The lack of comprehensive figures means U.S. health providers could quickly be overwhelmed by undetected cases.

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Dr. Anthony Fauci, left, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, speaks with Rep. Tom Suozzi, D-N.Y., right, after updating members of Congress on the coronavirus outbreak, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Associated Press



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Virus testing is 'failing,' leaving cases uncounted

Continued from Front

As of Thursday afternoon, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported about 1,260 U.S. illnesses — a number that trailed independent researchers, who are adding reports from individual states more quickly.

But some experts believe any number based on test results of individual patients is a dramatic undercount. Researchers at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles this week estimated that the true count of infections was close to 9,000 — about two weeks ago.

"I expect there are more infected individuals now," said one of the researchers, Dr. Jonathan Braun. "This means that the level of disease in the U.S. is much greater than has been reported by actual testing." The problem, these experts say: The U.S. simply isn't testing enough people.

There are no official numbers from the federal government on the country's overall testing capacity. One of the only comprehensive estimates comes from Dr. Scott Gottlieb, the former FDA commissioner who is now a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank.

As of Thursday, his group estimated U.S. labs could process results for more than 20,000 patients per day. The figure is based on a combination of publicly reported information and historical estimates from



A medical personnel holds a kit for the test for Coronavirus outside one of the emergency structures that were set up to ease procedures outside the hospital of Brescia, Northern Italy, Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Associated Press

government, private and academic labs. It reflects the total number of patient results that could be processed in a day, not the current number being run.

Whatever the actual number, the U.S. effort is trailing other nations.

South Korea, a country one-sixth the size of the U.S. in population, is reportedly testing 15,000 people per day. CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield noted that officials there are using automated, high-volume testing systems capable of

processing thousands of samples at a time. In contrast, the equipment used by most U.S. state and local labs requires technicians to manually process each sample in small batches, sometimes 100 or fewer per day.

The testing process in the U.S. requires mixing various chemicals to setup chain reactions that extract genetic information from patients' swabs. Each lab must fine-tune the process on its own equipment, something experts have likened to perfecting a new recipe. Unlike countries with centralized, government-based health care systems, the U.S. response is fragmented between public labs and private efforts by hospitals, universities and diagnostic companies.

U.S. officials have boasted of shipping well over 1 million tests to labs across the country. But it's unclear how many have actually been used on patients, because tests have gone to some private labs and hospitals that don't report into the CDC, Health and Human Services Secretary

Alex Azar told reporters earlier this week.

Azar said the government is working to set up a system to combine government testing figures with those of outside laboratories.

Government officials have pledged that large private testing companies like Quest Diagnostics will drastically expand U.S. capacity. A Quest spokeswoman on Wednesday said it could take up to six weeks to ramp up to testing tens of thousands of samples per week. The company expects to complete several thousand tests by the end of this week.

On Feb. 14, the CDC's Dr. Nancy Messonnier said the agency planned in the coming weeks to use labs in five cities to provide a good look at whether coronavirus might be appearing. The idea: When patients test negative for flu, their specimens would go through coronavirus testing to see if the new bug caused their symptoms.

"Results from this surveillance would be an early warning signal, to trigger a change in our response

strategy" if cases started appearing, she said.

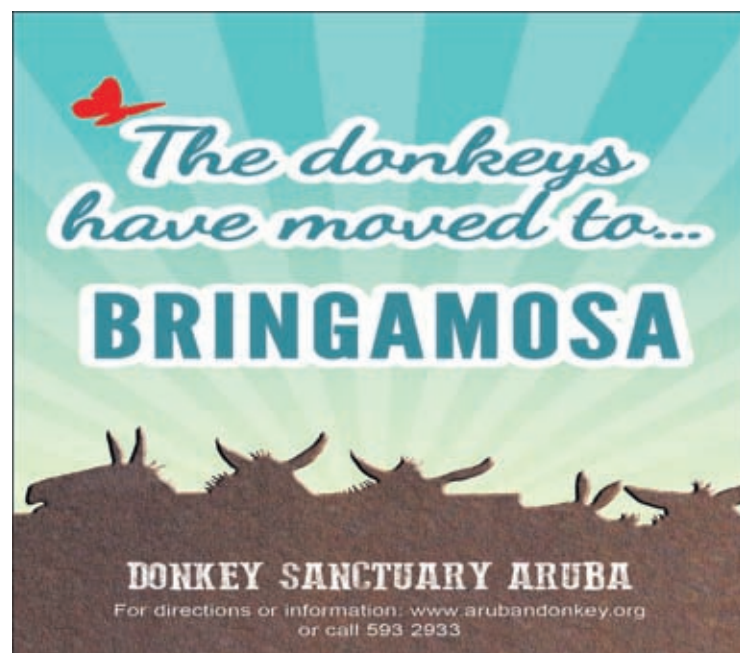
But earlier this week, nearly a month after the announcement, doctors and scientists were still awaiting word on whether that surveillance system was up and running.

On Thursday, the CDC revealed that some labs had begun the testing. But the list of test sites had changed, and the agency did not explain why.

In its initial announcement, the CDC said the work would begin in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco and Seattle. On Thursday, it said it instead had begun in Chicago and four sites in California — Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and Santa Clara.

Five other locations are working to get surveillance testing going, a CDC spokeswoman said. They are New York City; Orange County and Solano in California; and the states of Hawaii and Washington.

The agency did not immediately detail what the so-called sentinel testing sites have found. □



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Judge orders Chelsea Manning released from jail

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT**
Associated Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP) —

A federal judge on Thursday ordered the release of former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning, who has been incarcerated since May for refusing to testify to a grand jury.

U.S. District Judge Anthony Trenga ordered Manning's release from jail after prosecutors reported that the grand jury that subpoenaed her has disbanded.

The judge left in place more than \$256,000 in fines he imposed for her refusal to testify to the grand jury, which is investigating WikiLeaks. The fines had been accumulating at a rate of \$1,000 a day.

A hearing in the case that had been scheduled for Friday has now been canceled.

Manning had argued that she had shown through her prolonged stay at the Alexandria jail that she proved she could not be coerced

into testifying and therefore should be released.

On Wednesday, her lawyers said she attempted suicide while at the jail.

Manning was held since May for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating WikiLeaks.

She spent an additional two months in jail earlier in 2019 for refusing to testify to a separate grand jury.

She could have faced nearly six more months of jail time if the grand jury had continued its work. The civil contempt citation was designed to coerce her testimony.

Federal prosecutors had maintained that Manning can easily effect her own release by complying with the grand jury subpoena. They said she had the same duty to provide testimony that all citizens face.

Under federal law, a recalcitrant witness can only be jailed for civil contempt if there is a reasonable belief that incarceration will co-

erce the witness into testifying.

If the jail time has no coercive effect and is purely punitive, the recalcitrant witness is supposed to be released.

Manning has said she believes grand juries in general are an abuse of power and that she would rather starve to death than testify. Judge Trenga, in sending Manning to jail, said there was no dishonor in testifying to grand juries, which are referenced specifically in the U.S. Constitution, and that he hoped time in jail would allow Manning to reflect on that.

Manning had previously spent seven years in a military prison for delivering a trove of classified information to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who is under indictment at the Alexandria courthouse and is fighting extradition to the U.S.. Manning's 35-year sentence was then commuted by then-President



In this Nov. 9, 2017, file photo, Chelsea Manning attends the 22nd Annual OUT100 Celebration Gala at the Altman Building in New York.

Associated Press

Barack Obama.

It is possible that prosecutors could convene another grand jury and again subpoena Manning and

she could again be jailed for refusing to testify. But there is no clear indication from prosecutors that they would do so. □

Omar marries political consultant, months after affair claim

By **AMY FORLITI**

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota has married a political consultant who worked for her, months after the two were accused of having an affair, which she denied.

A marriage license filed in Washington, D.C., shows Omar married political consultant Tim Mynett on Wednesday. Omar announced her new marriage Wednesday night on Instagram, with a photo of her and a bearded man smiling and displaying wedding rings. "Got married! From partners in politics to life partners, so blessed," the post says, without identifying Mynett by name.

Filings with the Federal Election Commission show Omar's campaign paid Tim Mynett or his firm nearly \$600,000 since July 2018. Though it may raise eyebrows, family members, including spouses, can be on the campaign payroll as long as the family member provides services at a fair market value.

Larry Jacobs, a politics

professor at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs, said the work needs to be reasonable and there has to be actual work being done. Jacobs said constituents may question the way Omar handled the situation.

"Remember the story began with her denying a relationship, and now she's marrying that person," Jacobs said. "I think there are legitimate questions that constituents might ask about whether Congresswoman Omar has been fully truthful in her discussion of this relationship, and the nature of her marriage to a previous husband," whom Omar divorced last fall.

A relationship between Omar and Mynett was publicly alleged in August, when Mynett's then-wife, Beth Mynett, filed for divorce and accused her husband and Omar of having an affair. In response, Tim Mynett filed his own court document denying that he told his wife he was in love with Omar and that he was ending his marriage



In this Feb. 29, 2020 file photo, Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., speaks at a rally in Springfield, Mass. **Associated Press**

to be with the congresswoman.

When Omar was asked at the time whether she was separated from her then-

husband or dating someone, she told WCCO-TV, "No, I am not." She has since declined to discuss her personal life.

In October, she filed for divorce from Ahmed Hirsi, citing an "irretrievable breakdown" in the marriage. That divorce was finalized in November.

According to Beth Mynett's divorce filing, Tim Mynett is a founder of E Street Group and met Omar while working for her. His LinkedIn page says he is still a partner at the firm.

A message left with the company to confirm his employment and determine whether he is still working directly for Omar was not immediately returned. A spokesman for Omar also did not immediately return a message seeking to confirm whether Mynett still works for her.

Data on OpenSecrets.org shows the Omar campaign has been E Street Group's biggest moneymaker, bringing in more than \$523,000 in the 2020 election cycle alone.

Sheila Krumholz, executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics, said the fact that Omar's campaign

is the firm's top client, and they are now family, is notable.

"I think it begs some questions, which might be easily explained," she said. "Since there isn't a prohibition on paying family members, it usually comes down to understanding the patterns and PACs and whether that's a concern to the constituents and donors."

According to FEC filings, Omar's campaign paid Mynett or his firm for services including fundraising consulting, internet advertising, website development and digital communications. Several payments were also for travel expenses.

A message left with the Office of Congressional Ethics was not immediately returned Thursday, and it's not clear if it is investigating.

Omar has been dogged by questions about her personal life since she first ran for state representative in 2016, with conservatives alleging she was married to Hirsi and another man at once, and that the other man was her brother. She has called those claims "disgusting lies." □


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Pentagon threatening retaliatory strike after attack in Iraq

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. defense leaders on Thursday threatened a retaliatory strike against Iranian-backed Shia militia in Iraq, saying they know who launched the rockets in Iraq that killed and wounded U.S. and coalition troops and the attackers will be held accountable. Defense Secretary Mark Esper told reporters at the Pentagon that President Donald Trump on Wednesday night gave him the authority to do what he needs to do. The rapidly unfolding events signaled a renewed spike in tensions with Tehran and its proxy groups in Iraq, just two months after Iran carried out a massive ballistic missile attack against American troops at a base in Iraq.

"We're going to take this one step at a time, but we've got to hold the perpetrators accountable," Esper said. "You don't get to shoot at our bases and kill and wound Americans and get away with it."

At the White House, Trump said the attackers were a rebel group that "mostly likely looked like it could be backed by Iran. And we'll see what the response is." And Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Pentagon reporters the U.S. knows "with a high degree of certainty" who launched the attack.

Esper and Milley declined to provide any more information about any impending U.S. retaliation for the attack at Camp Taji north of Baghdad. But Esper said all options are on the table. On Capitol Hill, Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, the top U.S. commander for the Middle East, told senators that the deaths of U.S.

and coalition troops is a "red line" for the U.S., but said he doesn't think Iran has "a good understanding of where our red line is."

Asked if any counterattack could include a strike inside Iran, Esper said, "We are focused on the group that we believe perpetrated this in Iraq."

Two U.S. troops and one British service member were killed and 14 other personnel were wounded when 18 rockets hit the base on Wednesday.

The U.S. military said the 107 mm Katyusha rockets were fired from a truck launcher that was found by Iraqi security forces near the base after the attack.

U.S. officials have not publicly said what group they believe launched the rocket attack, but Kataib Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed Shia militia group, is likely.

Kataib Hezbollah was responsible for a late December rocket attack on a military base in Kirkuk that killed a U.S. contractor, prompting American military strikes in response.

That in turn led to protests at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

They were followed Jan. 3 by a U.S. airstrike that killed Iran's most powerful military officer, Gen. Qassem Soleimani, and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, a leader of the Iran-backed militias in Iraq, of which Kataib Hezbollah is a member. In response to the Soleimani killing, Iran launched a massive ballistic missile attack on Jan. 8, at al-Asad air base in Iraq, that resulted in traumatic brain injuries to more than 100 American troops.

McKenzie told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday morning that the killing of Soleimani and the increase in U.S. troops and assets in the region has



Defense Secretary Mark Esper speaks during a briefing at the Pentagon in Washington, Monday, March 2, 2020.

Associated Press

made clear to Iran that the U.S. will defend its interests there.

He said the U.S. has re-established a level of deterrence for state-on-state attacks by Iran.

But, he said, "What has not been changed is their continuing desire to operate through their proxies indirectly against us. That is a far more difficult area to deter."

On Thursday, Esper and Milley said they spoke with their British counterparts about the attack, but declined to provide details. Asked why none of the rockets was intercepted, Milley said there are no systems on the base capable of defending against that type of attack.

He also said the 14 injured personnel were a mix of

U.S. and allied troops as well as contractors, and that they will also be moni-

tored for possible traumatic brain injury in the wake of the blasts. □

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Q&A: New travel ban shakes up airlines, passengers

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5293	13:45	Paris Orly	129	D08	Cancelled	EY2902	17:20	Bologna	021-034	B07	
7631	14:00	Milano Linate	021-034		Cancelled	DL9222	17:25	Bari	021-034	B11	
3516	14:05	Pisa	021-034	B	Cancelled	NH5156	17:35	Brussels	101	D04	Canceled
7472	14:35	New York	066-079	E24		IB5524	17:35	Barcelona	129	D09	Canceled
W7887	14:45	Hamburg	093	D05		CZ7026	17:40	Paris - Cdg	084-086	B05	
48905	14:50	Lisbon	097	D05	Cancelled	KL3500	17:40	Cagliari	021-034	B06	
H6671	14:55	Tokyo	036-064	E11		AZ2024	17:40	Milano Linate	021-034	B	Canceled
B7621	15:00	Milano Linate	021-034	B04		OB7624	18:00	Milano Linate	021-034	B	Canceled
V6233	15:15	Brussels	021-034	B02		AM6910		Madrid	060	B	Canceled
AZ800	15:25	Algiers	036-064	E12		LH239		Frankfurt	115-119	D05	
V6225	15:30	Frankfurt	021-034	B05		OB7626		Milano Linate	021-034	B	Canceled
NH6122	15:35	Munich	115-119	D02		KL3528			021-034	B	Canceled
U8524	16:50	Madrid	060	B	Cancelled	EW9885			093	D02	
YM4960	16:55	Zurich	021-034	B08		CA7055			097	D05	Canceled
LG1245	17:00	Catania	021-034	B10		VY9534			131	C13	Canceled
OB7638	17:00	Milano Linate	021-034	B04		LH1847			115-119	D07	
EY2829	17:15	Milano Malpensa	021-034			LG1261			034	B	Canceled
PC7625	17:15	Torino	021-034	B	Canceled	AZ7924				D07	Canceled
UX3161	17:15	Brindisi	021-034	B	Canceled					B	Canceled
TP7284	17:15	Palermo	021-034	B	Canceled						
MF9952	17:15	Amsterdam	084-086	B13							

People walk by a departures monitor at the Rome Leonardo da Vinci International Airport, Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Associated Press

By **DAVID KOENIG** and **BEN FOX**

Associated Press

Airlines and travelers are still sorting out the new travel ban that President Donald Trump announced late Wednesday that bars most foreign visitors coming to the U.S. from continental Europe for 30 days.

The ban will affect 7,300 flights — and more than 2 million airline seats — scheduled from 26 European nations to the U.S., according to travel data firm Cirium.

Airlines are reeling from a drop in travel caused by the new coronavirus, and the ban will add to pressure on carriers, said Alexandre de Juniac, CEO of the International Air Transport Association trade group.

"We have already seen Flybe go under," he said, referring to a British airline that shut down last week. "And this latest blow could push others in the same direction."

Here are some frequent questions about the travel ban and its repercussions:

WHO IS COVERED BY THE NEW TRAVEL BAN?

Most foreign citizens who have been in continental Europe in the 14 days be-

fore their scheduled U.S. arrival would be barred. The United Kingdom is not part of the 26-country Schengen Area and will be exempted from the ban, along with Ireland, Romania, Croatia, Ukraine and several other European states.

Neither Trump nor the Homeland Security Department explained the reason for leaving out the U.K. A U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations said the U.S. sees the biggest threat coming from the European continent, not the U.K. — although the U.K. has at least 459 confirmed coronavirus cases and eight deaths.

The ban doesn't apply to American citizens returning from abroad, at least for now. It also doesn't cover foreigners who are lawful permanent residents of the U.S., or the spouses or children of American citizens and foreign children being adopted by Americans. The official said there are no plans to expand the order to include American citizens or lawful permanent residents who have been to Schengen countries, which have no pass-

port controls within its borders.

Trump's executive order also carves out exemptions for airline crews, people on United Nations business, foreigners invited by the U.S. government to help contain the virus, and anyone whose entry is deemed to be "in the national interest."

WHERE CAN AMERICANS RE-ENTER THE COUNTRY?

Like previous bans applying to people who have been in China or Iran, they will be funneled to one of 11 airports: Atlanta; Dallas-Fort Worth; Detroit; Newark, New Jersey; Honolulu; Kennedy Airport in New York; Los Angeles International; Chicago O'Hare; Seattle; San Francisco; and Dulles International outside Washington, D.C.

WILL THE BAN PROTECT AMERICANS?

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the National Institutes of Health's top official on infectious diseases, said Thursday that 70% of new infections can be traced to Europe. "It was pretty compelling that we needed to turn off the source from that region," he told a congressional panel.

Other medical experts are

skeptical, noting that the virus is now being passed through so-called community transmission — among people who haven't traveled overseas or been in contact with someone who has.

Dr. Bruce Aylward, who led a World Health Organization team in China as the COVID-19 disease was surging last month, said countries might gain in the short term by limiting travel but overall "it doesn't help to restrict movement."

HOW DOES THE OUTBREAK COMPARE TO PAST CRISES FOR THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY?

The combination of the drop in demand, widespread and growing restrictions on travel, and uncertainty over how long it will last is unprecedented, even by the U.S. travel industry's decline after the 2001 terror attacks and the brief but sharp downturn in global travel during the SARS outbreak in Asia in 2002.

Security measures after 9/11 made the few passengers who kept flying feel safe, and they sensed things would get better, said Seth Kaplan, a transportation analyst and long-

time industry observer. "This is new territory.

You have a 9/11-like drop in demand, but you can't tell people that you're absolutely safe to fly — you're not absolutely safe around any group of people," Kaplan said.

WHICH FLIGHTS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE BAN?

The largest number will be flights to the U.S. from Germany and France, followed by the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland.

Germany's Lufthansa Group said it will keep flying to Chicago and the New York and Washington, D.C., areas from Frankfurt, Zurich, Vienna and Brussels to maintain "at least some air traffic connections to the U.S."

But it will stop U.S.-bound flights from Munich, Geneva and Duesseldorf. The group's subsidiaries include Lufthansa and Austrian, Swiss and Brussels airlines. The big U.S. carriers to Europe — United, Delta and American — were already planning to reduce the number of flights to Europe because of falling demand. Analysts believe they will now speed up those plans. Most major airlines are waiving fees for changing or canceling a ticket through April 30.

WILL AIRLINES ASK FOR GOVERNMENT HELP?

Airline officials say they haven't asked for assistance — yet.

Several top airline CEOs who met with Trump and Vice President Mike Pence at the White House last week emphasized that they were not seeking a bailout like the one the industry got after the 2001 terror attacks.

After a decade of heady profits, U.S. airlines have never been stronger financially.

However, the longer the virus disrupts travel, the more likely a bailout becomes. Some airlines are lining up more credit from banks to preserve liquidity. They are slashing capital spending. They could cancel or defer aircraft orders, although none have announced such moves. □

Atlantic City wants ex-Trump casino razed; owner agrees

By WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) —

Atlantic City officials said Thursday that they will ask a judge to order the immediate demolition of a shuttered casino once owned by President Donald Trump, but its owner says he has already decided to tear it down.

The maneuvering over the former Trump Plaza casino, now owned by billionaire Carl Icahn, comes after pieces of the building's facade tore loose in recent days and came crashing to the sidewalk.

City officials inspected the building and declared it an imminent risk to public safety.

At a news conference Thursday, Mayor Marty Small said his administration would file papers in Superior Court later in the afternoon, asking a judge to order that the nearly 40-year-old building be torn down as soon as possible.

But Icahn, who took ownership of the casino company through a bankruptcy proceeding, said through a spokesman he had already agreed to tear it down.

"We are puzzled by the city's action," Hunter Gary, president of real estate for Icahn Enterprises, said in a prepared statement. "In fact, we already decided to demolish the building, and have commenced the process, including finalizing



Atlantic City, N.J., Fire Chief Scott Evans speaks at a news conference, Thursday, March 12, 2020, in Atlantic City, calling for the immediate demolition of the former Trump Plaza casino, parts of which have crumbled and fallen onto a sidewalk.

Associated Press

contracts. If the mayor had simply called us instead of holding a press conference, we could have updated him as well."

The statement did not address when Icahn hopes to have the building demolished, and the company did not respond to a request for clarification on his timetable.

In his news conference, Small did note that the city and Icahn have been in negotiations for several weeks regarding the demolition of the casino, which opened

in 1984.

"We are both on the same page about seeing this building demolished, but maybe with different paths," he said.

But Small added the recent deterioration of outer walls on the casino hotel building have left gaping holes that will only get worse with continued wind and rain. City buildings department officials and firefighters inspected the building, including flying drones over and next to it, and determined it is an imminent risk

to public safety.

"We could have had a fatality," Small said. "We had high school wrestling championships with 13,000 people walking nearby."

"There are five big holes in this building," said Fire Chief Scott Evans. "We're going to see more panels fall. This poses a threat to the surrounding area."

In recent years, Icahn has requested the use of more than \$5 million in redevelopment tax payments that Trump Plaza made while it was operating to help offset the cost of demolition.

Trump Plaza was one of four Atlantic City casinos

that shut down in 2014 during a period of contraction in the local casino industry, brought about by increased nearby competition and an oversaturated market. Another Trump casino, the Taj Mahal, closed in 2016, though it reopened under new ownership in 2018 as the Hard Rock.

Trump cut most ties with Atlantic City in 2009 aside from a 10% fee for the use of his name on what were then three casinos in the city. That stake was extinguished when Icahn took ownership of the company out of bankruptcy court in February 2016. □

Former Virginia House candidate charged with revenge porn

CHESTERFIELD, Va. (AP) — A former candidate for a seat in Virginia's House of Delegates has been charged with crimes commonly characterized as "revenge porn."

Sheila Bynum-Coleman was indicted Monday in Henrico County on two misdemeanor counts alleging that she disseminated nude photos of a woman at her workplace, news outlets reported.

Bynum-Coleman took issue with that characterization of the case in a phone call with the Richmond Times-

Dispatch, and then said she did not want to comment.

Last year, she tried but failed to unseat Republican Kirk Cox, who was a House Speaker at the time. Virginia laws says it's illegal to disseminate photos or video of another person in a state of undress with the intent to coerce or intimidate.

Authorities said that Bynum-Coleman obtained nude photos of the victim and showed them to the woman's supervisor at her workplace.

Special prosecutor Robert Cerullo, who was appointed to handle the case, said Bynum-Coleman told the victim's boss that the nude photos were taken at work and on company time. He said it's unclear what Bynum-Coleman's motive was.

Cerullo also said that Bynum-Coleman posted copies of the nude photos to a stop sign near the woman's job.

Bynum-Coleman, 47, is a Democrat who lives in Chesterfield and works as a real estate agent. □

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EU condemns Trump travel ban from Europe as virus spreads

By **LORNE COOK** and **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders on Thursday lashed out at President Donald Trump's decision to restrict travel from Europe to the United States because of the new coronavirus, calling the the pandemic a global crisis that "requires cooperation rather than unilateral action." Trump, who had called COVID-19 a "foreign virus" and claimed that European travelers "seeded" infection clusters in the United States, said late Wednesday that all European travel would be cut off.

U.S. officials later said the entry ban only would apply to most foreign citizens who have been inside Europe's passport-free travel zone during the 14 days prior to their arrival in the United States.

"The European Union disapproves of the fact that the U.S. decision to impose a travel ban was taken unilaterally and without consultation," European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a joint statement.

"The coronavirus is a global crisis, not limited to any continent, and it requires cooperation rather than unilateral action," the two



European Council President Charles Michel participates in a videoconference call with EU leaders at the European Council building in Brussels, Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Associated Press

said.

Europe's passport and visa-free Schengen travel area comprises 26 countries including EU members France, Italy, Germany, Greece, Austria and Belgium, where the bloc has its headquarters, but also others like Switzerland, Norway and Iceland.

The measures announced by Trump don't apply to the United Kingdom, where the number of confirmed cases has reached almost 460, with eight deaths, or Ireland, which isn't part of Schengen, and has 43 cases.

Trump is an ally of Prime Minister Boris Johnson and supported Britain's departure from the EU. The U.S. leader also owns three golf resorts in the U.K. and Ireland.

Around 400 flights cross the Atlantic from Europe to the United States each day, according to flight tracker FlightAware.

Trump defended his decision to not notify all European Union leaders before he announced the temporary travel restrictions.

"When they raise taxes on us, they don't consult us," Trump said. "I think that's

probably one in the same." The ban on travelers from Europe was the latest action taken by Trump since he came to office that appears to target the EU, a major trading partner with several member countries that are also U.S. allies in NATO.

Trump has slapped tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Europe and threatened broader trade action, notably against European automakers. Trump has also abandoned an international climate agreement backed by France, as well as the EU sponsored

deal limiting Iran's nuclear development.

The exact impact of the U.S. travel restrictions is unclear. The United States has not had an ambassador in Brussels since Trump fired the previous envoy, Gordon Sondland, last month. Asked what immediate action the European Union might take in response, European Commission spokesman Eric Mamer said that the EU "isn't in the habit of shooting from the hip."

"Good policy-making requires reflection," Mamer said.

As Brussels absorbed the news from Washington, borders went up in Europe in reaction to the coronavirus pandemic.

The government of the Czech Republic, which has 112 confirmed virus cases, declared a state of emergency Thursday. Prime Minister Andrej Babis said travelers from 15 countries would be denied entry to the country starting at midnight Friday if they aren't citizens.

The countries include not only China, South Korea and Iran, but Italy, Spain, France, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium and the U.K. Czech citizens also were barred from traveling to those countries. □

Thunderstorms bring widespread flooding to Egypt, killing 5

By **NOHA ELHENNAWY**

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Thunderstorms packing heavy rains and lightning caused widespread flooding across Egypt on Thursday, killing at least five people and injuring five others, officials said as authorities shuttered schools, government offices and an airport.

A child died and five people were injured when floods demolished their houses in a rural area in the southern province of Qena, where lightning ignited several fires. Also in Qena, a motorist was killed when winds blew his car into a canal. Photos and video

footage circulated on social media showed flooded roads, damaged bus shelters and broken windows around the country.

In western New Valley province, a technician was electrocuted while trying to fix a lighting column that went off due to the rain, local officials said.

In southern Sohag province, a 35-year-old bystander died under the rubble of a wall that was knocked down by wind.

A 60-year-old man was electrocuted as he walked down the street in his village in the Delta province of Menoufeya.

Authorities shut down Luxor



A man wears makeshift rain gear as he navigates a flooded road after heavy rains in the Zamalek district of Cairo, Egypt, Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Associated Press

International Airport, a key hub for tourists, and three seaports — the Mediter-

anean port of Alexandria and the Red Sea ports of Sharm el-Sheikh and

Hurghada. Nile River cruises between the southern cities of Luxor and Aswan, which harbor most of ancient Egypt's monuments, were suspended and several key highways were closed.

The country's railway authorities suspended train service nationwide, citing the bad weather. The announcement came shortly after two Cairo-bound trains collided near their final destination, injuring 13 people, according to health officials. Railroad officials later said in a statement the collision was due to a signal system error caused by the bad weather. □

European Central Bank deploys stimulus to ease virus damage

By DAVID McHUGH

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— The European Central Bank deployed targeted new stimulus measures to cushion the shock to the economy from the virus outbreak, but its president said monetary policy couldn't do it alone and called for a "decisive and determined" response from governments.

ECB President Christine Lagarde said the economy was facing a "major shock" and that the central bank measures unveiled Thursday were "almost surgically" targeted at areas where monetary policy could help.

The central bank, she said, was "determined to support households and firms in the face of the current economic disruptions and heightened uncertainty." But she added that a stronger response from eurozone governments was urgently needed to prevent the eurozone from falling into recession: "An ambitious and coordinated fiscal policy response is required to support businesses and workers at risk." She said action should come "in the next few weeks and not months."

She repeated the phrase at the start of her statement, and when asked if the eurozone faced a recession, said that depended "on the speed, the strength of the collective approach" by all players. She said currently announced fiscal measures were only 27 billion euros, or about a quarter of one percent of GDP. The bank's 25-member governing council decided a stimulus package that included the purchase of up to 120 billion euros (\$132 billion) more in bonds this year.

The money is newly created and injected into the financial system. It comes on top of purchases worth 20 billion euros a month it is already carrying out, and would be aimed at corporate bonds, which should help keep credit available to companies.

Financial markets contin-

ued to slide after the ECB's announcements, with the Stoxx Europe 600 index falling 11.5% - its worst day ever - amid global concerns that authorities can do little to ease the damage wrought by the virus outbreak.

Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg bank, said that "the adverse market reaction may not be just a market verdict on the ECB's package... It could also reflect a growing realization that monetary and fiscal policy cannot be the genuine circuit breakers in a medical emergency."

Schmieding said Lagarde committed a "communications mishap" with a remark that it was not the ECB's business to hold down gaps in borrowing costs among eurozone member governments. The gaps, or sovereign spread, increased in response and Lagarde later made what appeared to be a clarifying remark that high spreads "clearly impair" the bank's monetary policy.

The European Central Bank said it was also providing more cheap, long-term loans to banks to make sure they have the liquidity they need. And the ECB will temporarily ease some capital requirements for banks to help them keep lending. It's all aimed at helping businesses get the financing they need and stimulating activity to offset the downturn from all the closings and restrictions due to the virus outbreak. The central bank did not cut interest rates as many analysts had expected. Rates are already low and economists have said deeper cuts might not help much.

Thursday's steps "will do no more than cushion the blow to the economy from the coronavirus," said Andrew Kenningham, chief Europe economist at Capital Economics. "Monetary policy is powerless to prevent a deep downturn and, unlike in the U.S. and China, it has little scope to support the recovery afterwards."

The move comes as the eurozone is forecast to slide into recession and financial markets keep falling over concerns about the virus outbreak's hit to the economy. Concerns deepened after the U.S. decided to halt travel from 26 European countries.

The bank's policy meeting was held without several members of the 25-seat governing council physically present and participating by remote conferencing. Italian central bank head Ignazio Visco was among them since his country, so far the hardest hit in Europe by the virus outbreak, has restricted movement.

Economists are saying that the impact of the virus outbreak is difficult to address with monetary policy, since it first and foremost deals a shock to the supply of goods and services. Monetary policy is better equipped to stimulate demand, not supply, by making credit more widely available.

Central bank action is aimed instead at limiting the damage from knock-on



President of European Central Bank Christine Lagarde looks up prior to a press conference following a meeting of the ECB governing council in Frankfurt, Germany, Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Associated Press

effects of business interruption. More abundant and targeted credit could help businesses get through a period of interruption without going out of business.

The Bank of England cut its key benchmark to 0.25% from 0.75% on Wednesday; the U.S. Federal Reserve cut its benchmark by a half-percentage point to 1.0-1.25% on March 3.

Governments have announced some limited measures of fiscal support.

Italy is earmarking 25 billion euros (\$28 billion) in new spending and Britain said it would make 30 billion pounds (\$39 billion) available.

The government of Chancellor Angela Merkel has decided to make it easier for companies to put workers on shorter hours, with government assistance. That could help firms rebound after the outbreak passes because they will have avoided layoffs. □

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Philippine president imposes travel limits, quarantines

By JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —

The Philippine president announced Thursday that domestic travel to and from metropolitan Manila will be suspended for a month and authorized sweeping quarantines in the crowded capital to fight the new coronavirus.

President Rodrigo Duterte also banned large gatherings in the metropolis, suspended most government work in the executive department and extended the suspension of classes by a month in new restrictions announced in a nationwide TV address. Domestic travel by land, air and sea to and from the capital region will be suspended starting Sunday.

An entire city or province could be placed under quarantine if there are at least two confirmed infections in two different villages or towns, the president said.

With police and military generals sitting behind him, Duterte warned that violators and officials who refuse to enforce the temporary restrictions will face arrest and possible imprisonment. "This is not martial law. It's not even something extraordinary," Duterte said, stressing that the restrictions are only aimed at fighting the virus.

But he warned that "if things deteriorate, the military and police will maintain



In this image taken from video provided by the Malacanang RTVM, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, center, gestures as he delivers his speech at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila, Philippines, on Thursday March 12, 2020.

order." The actions will be reviewed daily by an inter-agency force dealing with the viral outbreak, Duterte said.

The new restrictions amounted to "a lockdown" but Duterte said officials did not want to use the publicly intimidating term.

"This is not a total lockdown," Interior Secretary Eduardo Ano said, suggesting that law enforcers would be considerate.

The sweeping restrictions immediately sparked questions about whether food shipments or large numbers of commuters from the provinces would be allowed to enter or leave the capital. Officials said more specific enforcement guidelines will be issued to avoid confusion.

Health officials have confirmed 52 cases of the virus, including five people who have died.

There have been concerns that drastic steps, including a total lockdown of the capital of more than 12 million people, would have a staggering economic impact.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III said preventing travel to and from Metro Manila with only 52 cases at this point "is a textbook case of overreaction."

Foreign travelers from countries with known local transmissions of the virus will face entry restrictions, but the regulation exempts Filipinos, including their foreign spouses and children, and diplomats with Philippine-issued visas, Duterte

said. While the number of infections has been comparably low, the outbreak grabbed wider attention after Duterte himself was tested for the coronavirus on Thursday after earlier meeting with Cabinet officials who had been exposed to infected people. The 74-year-old Duterte has no symptoms of the disease but wanted to make sure he is healthy and can continue to engage with the public, said Sen. Christopher Lawrence

"Bong" Go, a former presidential aide who still accompanies Duterte to official functions.

Go, who was elected to the Senate last year, told reporters the result of the test on Duterte was expected in 48 hours.

Associated Press

At least nine Cabinet members, including Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez, have said they were exposed separately to COVID-19 patients and decided to self-quarantine. Several mayors and senators have also gone into home quarantine after coming into contact with patients.

Buildings in the presidential palace compound, including chandelier-lit halls where the president hosts large domestic and foreign gatherings, and a news conference hall and press working area were disinfected Thursday after recent visits by officials who may have been exposed to the virus, officials said.

Duterte's elite presidential guards announced early this week that they will enforce a "no touch policy" for Duterte to protect him from the virus and screen politicians and dignitaries who get near him. But Duterte played down the restrictions and suggested that he was not intimidated by the disease.

"That protocol is foolish. I will shake hands," Duterte said. "If God calls me now, I'll go. I'm done. I'm the president now, the highest post anybody could reach."

The illness causes mild to moderate symptoms in most people but can be severe in the elderly and people with other health problems. □

Pakistan anti-graft body arrests newspaper, TV mogul Rehman

By MUNIR AHMED

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's anti-graft body Thursday ordered the arrest of the owner and editor-in-chief of Pakistan's largest independent group of newspapers and TV stations in a decades-old case related to allegations of tax evasion in a real estate purchase.

Mir Shakilur Rehman's Jang Group of Newspapers, which includes Geo TV, has been critical of the government. He was arrested in the eastern city of Lahore, the National Accountability Bureau said, without giving additional details.

Rehman's arrest drew condemnation from the country's journalistic community, with Geo News calling the arrest a "political victimization." "This is an attack on the freedom of expression," said Rana Jawad, Geo News' news director.

Pakistan, one of the most dangerous places in

the world for journalists to work, has witnessed an intensified crackdown on journalists, human rights workers, activists and members of civil society in recent years.

Rehman, whose media house has been critical of the government, had been facing questions from the anti-graft body for the past several months.

Jawad accused the National Accountability Bureau of abusing its authority, saying no valid reason was given to Rehman for being taken into custody.

The Geo TV station said Rehman was arrested in a 34-year-old case pertaining to the purchase of land for construction of a house in Lahore, the capital of eastern Punjab province.

Rehman's arrest comes amid increasing pressure on journalists in Pakistan by state institutions and security agencies. Being a dissident — or

even raising a critical voice — in Pakistan has grown more dangerous, regardless of whether the target is a political party, the judiciary or the powerful military and security agencies.

Human rights groups say the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan, elected in 2018, has failed to protect freedom of speech in Pakistan. Before becoming prime minister, Khan often publicly said that he would have Rehman arrested if he came into power.

Khan considers Rehman's media house to be one of his main critics.

The latest arrest came weeks after Pakistani journalist Aziz Memon disappeared on the way to his work at a small newspaper in southern Sindh province. He was found dead just hours later. A few months earlier, Memon tweeted that he had been threatened by local police and a prominent political party over his reporting. □

Israel's Netanyahu calls for emergency government with rival

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday called for the formation of an emergency government to confront a growing crisis over the coronavirus, offering a potential way out of the deadlock that has paralyzed the political system for the past year. Netanyahu made the offer in a nationally televised address, saying the virus does "not differentiate" between Jews and non-Jews or between the political left and right.

"I call for the formation now, even this evening, of a national emergency government," he said.

"It will be an emergency government for a limited period. Together, we will fight to save the lives of citizens," he added, saying that politics should be put aside.

His chief rival, former military chief Benny Gantz, said he was willing to discuss the possibility of a national unity government and that his party will do "everything

in our power to see it move forward."

The conciliatory language marked a sharp change after months of acrimonious campaigning and heightened rhetoric in the wake of another inconclusive election earlier this month. Israel has been relatively insulated from the coronavirus scare, with just over 100 cases diagnosed so far. But the numbers have begun to creep upward in recent days.

Israel has imposed a number of tough restrictions to slow the spread of the virus, placing tens of thousands of people into protective home quarantine, ordering all Israelis who return from overseas into quarantine and barring almost all tourists from entering the country.

Netanyahu announced that schools and universities would be closed through the end of the Passover holiday in mid-April, with the exception of preschools, boarding schools and special education facilities.

Israel's Health Ministry has barred all gatherings of

more than 100 people.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

More than 127,000 people in more than 110 countries have been infected. The vast majority are in just four countries: China and South Korea — where new cases are declining — and Iran and Italy, where they are not. More than 4,700 people have died worldwide. This month's election was Israel's third to end in deadlock in the past year.

Netanyahu's Likud emerged as the single largest party but fell short of securing a majority of seats in parliament required to form a government.

Although a slight majority of lawmakers oppose Netanyahu, they are deeply divided on other issues. Gantz, of the centrist Blue and White party, also appears to lack enough sup-



In this Saturday, March 7, 2020 file photo, Israeli Prime Minister and head of the Likud party Benjamin Netanyahu delivers a statement in Petah Tikva.

Associated Press

port to form a government. A unity government between the two large parties would be the most straightforward way out of the crisis.

But after three contentious campaigns, there is great animosity between the two leaders, and it remains unclear who would lead a unity government. Still, the growing coronavirus threat may be the spark that brings the sides together. Gantz has previously ruled out a partnership with Netanyahu, citing the prime

minister's upcoming trial on corruption charges, which is set to begin next week.

Netanyahu has insisted that he lead any unity government.

Citing the urgent health crisis, Gantz appeared to be open to compromise with Netanyahu.

"Given the circumstances, we are willing to discuss the possibility of establishing a broad national unity government, reflective of the entire Israeli public," he said in a statement late Thursday. □

Iraq will investigate attack on base that killed U.S. troops

By SAMYA KULLAB

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's military said Thursday it opened an investigation into a rocket attack that killed three service members, including two Americans, at an Iraqi base housing coalition forces, igniting fears of an escalation in U.S.-Iran tensions after months of detente.

At least 12 coalition personnel were also wounded late Wednesday by a barrage of rockets targeting Camp Taji base, located 27 kilometers (17 miles) north of Baghdad, according to a U.S.-led coalition statement. A British service member, identified as 26-year old Lance Corp. Brodie Gillon was also killed in the attack, according to London's Defense Ministry. A truck rigged with 107 mm Katyusha rocket launchers

was discovered by Iraqi security forces a few kilometers (miles) from the base following the attack.

A military statement from Iraq's joint operations command said caretaker Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi ordered the investigation into what he called "a very serious security challenge and hostile act."

The United Nations condemned the attack, saying it took "critical political attention away" from Iraq's ongoing domestic challenges, which threaten to create a power vacuum in the Iraqi government.

"The last thing Iraq needs is to serve as an arena for vendettas and external battles," the statement said. The attack came as a potential leadership void looms over Iraq after prime minister-designate Mohammed Allawi with-

drew his nomination earlier this month. It also comes as the country's decrepit health care system struggles to contain the coronavirus pandemic. Allawi's stepping down followed political squabbling over the naming of his Cabinet. Shortly afterward, the caretaker premier, Abdul-Mahdi, said he would no longer carry out most of his official duties and called for early elections.

The attack was the deadliest to target U.S. troops in Iraq since a late December rocket attack on an Iraqi base that killed a U.S. contractor and set in motion a series of tit-for-tat attacks that brought Iraq to the brink of war.

American airstrikes targeting the Iran-backed militia Kataib Hezbollah led to protests at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. □



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Caribbean tries to resolve vote dispute in oil-rich Guyana

By BERT WILKINSON

Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana

(AP) — Several Caribbean prime ministers traveled to Guyana on Wednesday to try to help resolve an election crisis in the South American country, where rival factions are competing for control of massive oil revenues expected in years to come. The 15-nation Caribbean Community was intervening in a dispute that erupted after March 2 elections in which both of the main political groups claimed victory, prompting street unrest in which at least one person was killed. The political instability comes as the country of fewer than 1 million people faces the prospect that oil revenues in the next decade could make it one of the wealthiest in the hemisphere.

"The delegation will meet with the leadership of all parties that contested the poll," the Community said in a statement.

The regional bloc said its delegation includes current chair and Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, Keith Rowley of Trinidad and Tobago, Keith Mitchell of Gre-



People line up to vote during presidential elections in Georgetown, Guyana, Monday, March 2, 2020. Associated Press

nada, Roosevelt Skerit of Dominica and Ralph Gonsalves of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The governing coalition led by retired army Gen. David Granger said it won the elections by two seats in the 65-seat parliament, while the main opposition People's Progressive Party, or PPP, said it won by three seats.

The factions are mainly divided along ethnic lines,

with Granger's coalition supported by the Afro-Guyanese population and the PPP opposition backed by the Indo-Guyanese community. There is also a smaller number of indigenous Guyanese.

A court was expected to rule this week on the election, whose results have yet to be formally announced. The dispute had led to street protests, mostly by opposition supporters, in

the past week. Police shot and killed a coastal village teenager who they said had attacked officers with a machete. Several others were injured by shotgun pellets. Other protesters burned tires, blocked highways and threw stones at school buses, injuring several students. Both sides have appealed for calm. The protests have faded for now.

The United States and oth-

er Western nations have warned against the swearing-in of any president pending court challenges and verification of ballots. Counting and verification of ballots have been stopped since March 5.

U.S. and other observers saw "flawed tabulation" in the election and "any government sworn in on the basis of that result would not be legitimate," according to Michael Kozak, the U.S. State Department's acting assistant secretary of state for Western hemisphere affairs.

This year's elections have been widely viewed as the most crucial since independence from Britain in 1966, largely because the country is one of the world's newest producers of oil and could earn billions in revenues.

Guyana recently sold its first million barrels to markets in the Far East and southern U.S. states. It will get four more similar sized shipments this year worth about \$300 million as part of production-sharing arrangements with a consortium led by ExxonMobil, along with Hess Oil of the US and Nexen of China. □

Fuel, flour, diapers: Cubans turn to social media for basics

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — "Where to find it?" and "Whatever you want" and "What do you need?"

These are the names of some of the social media groups catering to thousands of Cubans who are using newly available mobile internet to grapple with shortages of basic goods that are worsening under tougher U.S. sanctions. Armed with internet access on cellphones that came into general use last year, Cubans are forming online chat groups to share tips about where to find dish detergent, chicken, diesel fuel and other scarce essentials. They do so on WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook.

Without the chat groups,

people would have to "spend all day going around the city" looking for things that they need, said Claudia Santander, a graphic designer who administers a dozen WhatsApp groups at no charge. Now, for example, someone can ask about a certain product — toilet paper or milk powder or soap — and another person on the chat might reply within minutes to say which store in Havana, the Cuban capital, is stocking it.

"I've been able to sort out" diaper and other purchases since joining several social media groups aimed at locating essential items, said Havana resident Laura Vela, who has a young child. Some of the groups have waiting lists of people anxious to get the ben-

efits of being a member. WhatsApp limits group chat sizes to 256 people, while other platforms accept thousands. Shopping through social media is easing life for many on the island, but it may be exacerbating inequality and making things harder for those without internet connections. Moreover, people get discounts on data if they pay with badly needed dollars through companies outside Cuba, meaning those without U.S. currency are at a disadvantage.

"A lot of people can't afford" to buy phone data or a good phone, said Lucía March, a writer. For those who can, she said, "the usefulness is obvious and it's something that represents, above all, develop-



Claudia Santander, a 31-year-old graphic designer, poses with her mobile phone as others line up to buy goods at the 4 Caminos market in Havana, Cuba, Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

Associated Press

ment and also helps open people's minds a little," Cuba doesn't have classified ads in official newspapers. Some businesses offer sales on the internet, but the social media groups help people grapple almost in real time with constant challenges. Cooking oil might van-

ish from shelves, but then it returns and there is no flour. One day there is no butter and the next there is no cheese. Many people, particularly those not getting information from a social media network, can spend hours fruitlessly searching for household items. □

LOCAL



Update on COVID-19 for our visitors

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today newspaper is a platform for our visitors to inform themselves about anything concerning their upcoming and/or present vacation. Unfortunately this is currently not only about where to have fun and enjoy great food. At the moment, we are receiving more, and more questions about the status of the COVID-19 on Aruba. We spoke to Jurette Croes, Communication Advisor of the Department of Public Health and also have the latest update from the airport for you.

"Aruba airport and the cruise port are open to all arriving flights and cruises. There is no COVID-19 checking of passengers unless flight attendants or cruise personnel informed us about passengers with symptoms. We do require airline companies and cruise companies to deliver a maritime declaration form up to 24 hours before arrival," Croes explains. She also informs that each arriving person on the airport and cruise terminal receives a Travel Note containing important information with regards to prevention and also how to act when symptoms occur. "There is a 24/7 phone number available to call for information which is 00 297 280-0101."

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 disease pandemic. If you develop fever, cough or have difficulty breathing during your vacation, call the front desk of your resort or property or the national COVID-19 call center, states the flyer handed to all arrivals. Call ahead before going to a doctor, clinic or hospital and tell them of your travel history and what symptoms you have. The doctor will coordinate further instructions.



Some travel tips shared by the Public Health Department are to wash your hands regularly with soap, or alcohol based hand rub. Always drink water out of a bottle and eat meat and eggs that are cooked thoroughly. Avoid direct contact with wild/live animals and sick people. And make sure to have proper vaccinations and travel insurance. To stop the spread of the coronavirus, avoid touching your nose, eyes and mouth and cover your coughs or sneezes. If you feel sick, stay home and call your doctor.

What Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) is doing | Note from AAA CEO Joost Meijs

The rapidly changing information about the current worldwide COVID-19 outbreak on travel restrictions locally and abroad are understandably creating concerns amongst our travelers, airport stakeholders, airport community and our airport staff. As Aruba Airport's operator and manager, AAA continues to monitor the COVID-19

situation closely, in further coordination and cooperation with the local Department of Public Health (DVG), the Department of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Tourism, Health and Sports. We also listen carefully to any questions and concerns any of our travelers and other airport users may have and try to react hereto as swiftly and effectively as possible. We want you to know that your health and safety are our priority. As such we would like to share the following updates which may further assist you in considering your next travel to and from Aruba whilst making use of our airport facilities or whilst managing your operation at our airport.

The cleanliness of our airport facilities is of the utmost importance to travelers and airport users and as such have always implemented all efforts in making sure that our terminal facilities are comfortable and clean. We realize that during these trying times this is even more important. Next to our daily cleaning procedures, we have in-

creased cleaning frequencies in all public areas, and we have added additional sanitizer machines and soap dispensers in strategic areas. Our cleaning staff are also instructed to have more rigorous cleaning routines. Regular cleaning remains one of the most important preventive measures that can be taken. Basic health tips, in coordination with the DVG, are shared throughout the arrival and departure areas in order to ensure that all are duly aware and informed hereof whilst traveling through and using our facilities. AAA is also setting up a medical screening checkpoint, in coordination with the DVG on site at the airport.

We have also kept not only our airport stakeholders and community informed about preventive measures that can be taken to keep themselves and their staff safe and healthy by keeping them updated on the latest developments with the COVID-19 outbreak, but we have also made sure that our own staff is duly advised hereof.

We're encouraging not only our own sick team members to stay home but have also recommended that the employers within the airport community consider this same measure for their teams. Furthermore, we have also asked our own team not to go on a business trip to high-risk areas with a negative travel advice and to other destinations, only after discussing this with their manager and determine together what to do. The same is recommended to our airport relations. Internally we have also set up a WhatsApp chat group which keeps our team informed of the latest developments on protective measures with relation to the outbreak.

A dedicated team has been activated within AAA which has been monitoring the situation in real time and will proceed with preventive measures as deemed necessary. We will continue to activate all protocols defined by the World Health Organization, the Directorate of Civil Aviation and the Department of Public Health (DVG). □

Urban Chic in Tropical Beach Décor: Coral Shell Condominiums is made with Family Love



ORANJESTAD —The Caribbean is a paradisiacal place where anyone would like to own their own condo to enjoy family, retirement, sun, sand and sea, and leisure. Making the perfect choice for that perfect place in the jungle of offerings can be a hassle. Well, in case you are looking for the best in all senses, Coral Shell is a must-see. We will tell you why.

The best comes from the heart and in the case of Coral Shell Condominiums it is the owners who built this place as their own home. Actually it is their own home as they will live in one of the exclusive condominiums themselves. Marisabel and Albert are a warm, genuine, hard-working and driven-by-perfectionism and passion kind of couple. They do not only care for the luxury private residence they are building but take the environment into consideration in their concept as they are the park-keepers of the adjacent Boy Ecury Park. Aruba Today was shown around by the owner who while explaining all the beauty that surrounds us mentions he is a medical specialist in origin. That explains his accuracy with every tiny detail and his decision for only the best quality products. There are 16 apartments in the range from one, two, three, four and five bedrooms.

The building

The building is unique with 2 centimeter thick marble floors, exterior façade in Dominican Coral Stone, walls with concrete blocks – not dry wall, double glass windows with UV protection and sound control, a double system of air conditioning, sound control and waterproof mat under marble floor to isolate noise, fire and gas detectors in all apartments, laundry rooms and each kitchen has an InSinkErator.

The impeccable architecture is inspiring; appearing to have an art-museum vibe. Correct, says Albert, the architect is inspired by Spanish artist Gaudi among others. The walls seem to flow in a natural way and fit perfectly into the sun-lit place and surrounding colors of nature. The kitchens are all 100% Italian brand and even installed by Italians who call this place “Palazzo”. “They said to have installed kitchens all over the world but never saw a condominium residence where all is matched so perfectly,” the owners say. “I can say with pride that this is the most exclusive condominium in the Caribbean.”



The location

You have a priceless view offering 180 degrees that gives you a turquoise ocean, big blue sky, lush green gardens and the Linear Park urban walkway. Open air, sea, sand, city and more sea ... all in one. Stroll in Boy Ecury Park, play with the children in Linear Park, take a dive in the ocean just in front of you and walk to one of the many restaurants that are close-by. Coral Shell has all the options in one. Most of the time you have to make a choice between a seaside location, urban environment or inland greens but here you have it all. Did we mention you have your private parking under the roof? Also there is round-the clock security guard and video surveillance. How about the Infinity pool with hydro jets and the outdoor terrace with bar, sun deck, fitness center and multipurpose court? Now we did. You must see it for yourself to experience the magic of Coral Shell, the owners will be honored to guide you around! □



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Shalom Hair & Nail Bar

“The only dislike here is having to leave back home”

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Larry & Brenda Zilko** from Louisville Ohio.

This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people who have become like family to them. They also mentioned that they never had anything to dislike about the island except having to leave back home!

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Tamarijn All Inclusive Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



20 years coming to Aruba

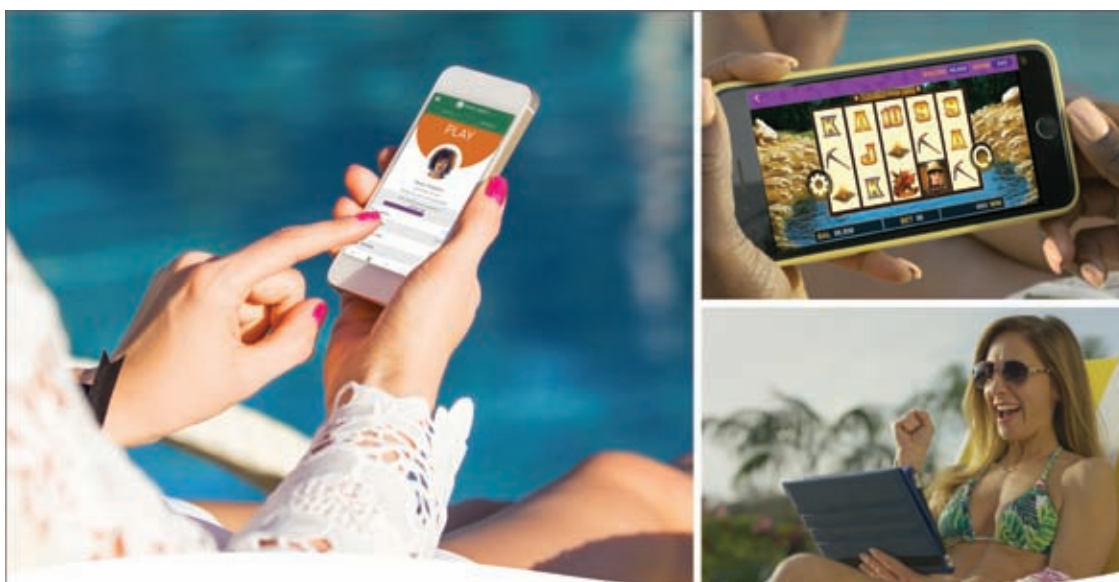


PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Stephen & Barbara Pelkey** who have been visiting Aruba for 20 years consecutively.

Couple Pelkey stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people who have become like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Playa Linda Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



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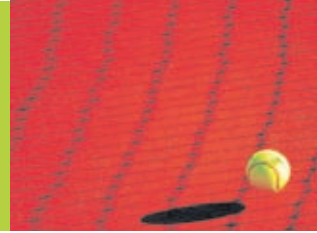
Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from **Gary Deluke**. He wrote:

"Aruba to me is riding my bike along the new linear path and taking in all that Aruba has to offer, like this photo of Gorgeous Eagle Beach." □



SPORTS



In this Aug. 20, 2016, file photo, United States' Allyson Felix crosses the line to win the gold medal in the women's 4x400-meter relay final during the athletics competitions of the 2016 Summer Olympics at the Olympic stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Associated Press

Allyson Felix finds voice, new legacy through motherhood

By PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

Allyson Felix sometimes "races" a "sprinter" at practice who's difficult to catch and always seems to have another burst.

Of course, Felix's 15-month-old daughter, Camryn, does tend to veer outside of her lane.

The six-time Olympic gold medalist, and the best-known name on the American track scene, is using her platform to orchestrate change. She's taking advantage of everything from media interviews to appearances on Capitol Hill to speak out about the deals sponsors impose on the athletes they support, to lobby for more protections in contracts for female athletes who give birth and to discuss overcoming racial disparities in the maternal mortality crisis.

Continued on Page 23

FAN OUT



Hideki Matsuyama ties course record with 63

Hideki Matsuyama, of Japan, watches his shot on the 11th fairway during the first round of The Players Championship golf tournament Thursday, March 12, 2020, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press
Page 19

March Madness: NCAA Tournaments canceled due to coronavirus

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

AP College Sports Writer

The NCAA canceled its men's and women's basketball tournaments on Thursday because of the spread of coronavirus, putting an abrupt end to the season less than a month before champions were to be crowned.

The unprecedented move comes a day after the NCAA announced the games that were scheduled to start next week would go on, but played in mostly empty arenas. That plan was scrapped as every major American sports league from the NBA to MLB put the brakes on its season due to concerns about the pandemic.

"This decision is based on the evolving COVID-19 public health threat, our ability to ensure the events do not contribute to the spread of the pandemic and the impracticality of hosting such events at any time during the academic year given the ongoing decisions by other entities," the NCAA said in statement.

The NCAA canceled all of its spring championships in every sport, which include hockey, baseball and lacrosse. For most people, the new coronavirus



The national office of the NCAA in Indianapolis is shown Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Associated Press

causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover from the virus.

The NCAA men's basketball tournament has been played every year since 1939 when Oregon won the championship in Evanston, Illinois. It has grown through the years, both in

size and stature. The three-week tournament generates almost a billion dollars in revenue each year for the NCAA and its hundreds of member universities and colleges, most coming from a television contract with CBS and Turner that pays the NCAA almost \$800 million per year.

It is now one of the biggest events in American sports, a basketball marathon of buzzer-beaters, upset and thrills involving 68 teams. The field for the men's tour-

namment was scheduled to be announced Sunday. The 64-team women's field was to be revealed Monday. The NCAA women's tournament began in 1982 and it, too, has become a big event, raising the profile of the sport.

"I'm disappointed but I totally understand. I really feel for the senior student-athletes; every student athlete, but particularly the seniors because this is their last chance for the fans," said Oregon women's

coach Kelly Graves, whose team would have entered the tournament as favorites to reach the Final Four in New Orleans. "There's something more important than the games going on. I've kind of come to grips to that a little more than a few hours ago."

Games would have started on the men's side on Tuesday in Dayton, Ohio, before spreading out to eight sites from coast-to-coast from next Thursday through Sunday. The women's tournament was scheduled to begin March 20, with first-and second-round games to be played at 16 sites on or near the campuses of the top teams.

The men's Final Four was to be played April 4 and 6 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta. The semifinals and final typically pack football stadiums for the games, and after the champion is crowned the best moments of the year's tournament are wrapped up into the "One Shining Moment" montage that has become a staple of CBS' television coverage through the years.

Instead, March Madness took on a different meaning as sports have virtually shut down. □

Virus worries prompt some post-race changes for the Iditarod

By **MARK THIESSEN**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— Officials with the world's most famous sled dog race announced Thursday they have postponed post-race events in Nome in response to the new coronavirus.

The Iditarod has postponed both the awards banquet set for March 22 and the meet the mushers event set for March 21, both in Nome, where the winner is expected some time next week.

The finish line is near the Nome mini-convention center, which serves as a community gathering point for mushers, their families, race fans and volunteers that descend on the city.



In this March 12, 2012 file photo, musher Brent Sass speaks to reporters after completing the nearly 1,000 mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Nome, Alaska.

Associated Press

"They will still be using the mini-convention center as their headquarters. But we're going to be limiting

the amount of people that are allowed in there at any one time," Nome City Manager Glenn Steckman

told The Associated Press. The number of people allowed inside the building isn't yet known.

"I have to meet with the representatives from the Iditarod to discuss numbers, but the numbers are ultimately up to me," he said.

Steckman said the race will continue, but they are also encouraging people to employ appropriate social distancing.

"If you're ill or feeling ill, don't come to the event," he said. "If you're over 60 years of age, you shouldn't come to the event."

Meanwhile, the leader is taking a day's rest at the halfway point of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Brent Sass, a native of

Minnesota living near the Alaska community of Eureka, was the first musher to the checkpoint in Cripple, the race's halfway point. He arrived late Wednesday with 13 dogs in harness and planned to take his mandatory 24-hour rest period.

He said he was pleased with his team's performance, telling the Iditarod Insider, "Everybody is just smooth trotting, and they're doing their job." Sass is the two-time defending champion of the 1,000-mile (1,609-kilometer) Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race, run between Fairbanks and Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. He won this year's Yukon Quest on Feb. 11. □

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Matsuyama matches record score easily forgotten at Sawgrass

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.

(AP) — Fans scattered around the ninth green saw Hideki Matsuyama finish with a 25-foot eagle putt to tie the course record and take the lead at The Players Championship.

Spectators filled the theater around the dynamic 16th and 17th holes at the TPC Sawgrass to see Rory McIlroy and Brooks Koepka salvage rough starts.

After Thursday, that's all they'll see — for the rest of the week at The Players, for at least the next month on the PGA Tour.

"At least they got to enjoy themselves for one day," McIlroy said. "Now it's going to look a little different."

Even with the best in the world competing for the richest purse in golf, The Players Championship felt like an afterthought amid rapid developments with the new coronavirus that led sports around the world to stop playing.

Golf goes on — but without fans.

The PGA Tour said it was banning spectators at all tournaments for at least the next month. The policy starts Friday, the first time one of the most entertaining arenas in golf will be virtually empty.

Fans won't be around to bet with each other on who hits the island green on the par-3 17th. Players won't be able to sense whether shots funnel toward the hole with no noise from the gallery to tell them. No cheers. No jeers.

"That's what makes this golf

course so fun, so exciting, is all the fans cheering and booing when you hit a bad shot," Koepka said after birdies on three of his last four holes for a 70. "That's what you want. You want that excitement, that aura around you. And tomorrow we're not going to have that. It will be a bit weird."

The crowd was thinner than usual, even by Thursday morning standards. Players were alerted late Wednesday to prepare to play, even as the NBA announced it was suspending its season and other sports leagues followed.

Before long, the tour decided to keep fans away.

That wasn't enough for C.T. Pan of Taiwan, who withdrew before his afternoon tee time because he wanted to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus. Pan said on Twitter: "Our lifestyle is like a circus, traveling from one place to another. We believe this is a time to exercise caution by not playing this week."

Matsuyama opened with four straight birdies and closed with a 3-wood into 25 feet for eagle and a 9-under 63, the ninth player to share the record at Sawgrass.

He had a two-shot lead over Harris English, former winner Si Woo Kim and Christiaan Bezuidenhout of South Africa. For much of the day, they were just names and numbers on the scoreboard.

Graeme McDowell described a somber mood in the locker room and on the range as he tried to get warmed up.



Hideki Matsuyama of Japan, hits from the 11th green, during the first round of The Players Championship golf tournament Thursday, March 12, 2020, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

"We just don't really know how to react and didn't really know what to expect," McDowell said after a 68, his best score in his last 20 rounds at Sawgrass. "At one point, I was nearly expecting the horns to go off out there for us all to be taken off the golf course."

Jordan Spieth, who shot 75 as his struggles showed few signs of improving, wasn't aware of the decision when he teed off. He first caught wind during an exchange with a fan that made him pause.

"Guys were saying, 'We're going to miss you guys this weekend' during the middle of the round," Spieth said. "We thought that was kind of rude, meaning we're not going to be here this weekend. Then I realized when I was told that

they said there's no spectators the rest of the week."

Fans who made it into the tournament Thursday were told no autographs were allowed. They weren't asked to leave when the tour decided to ban spectators, and people were still coming into the course in the afternoon.

Commissioner Jay Monahan said the tour received information that the virus was not yet a major threat in the area — his two daughters were in school, theaters and businesses remained open — but acknowledged the situation was fluid.

Why not just shut down golf entirely?

He said golf was different because it was an outdoors event over a sprawling piece of property and

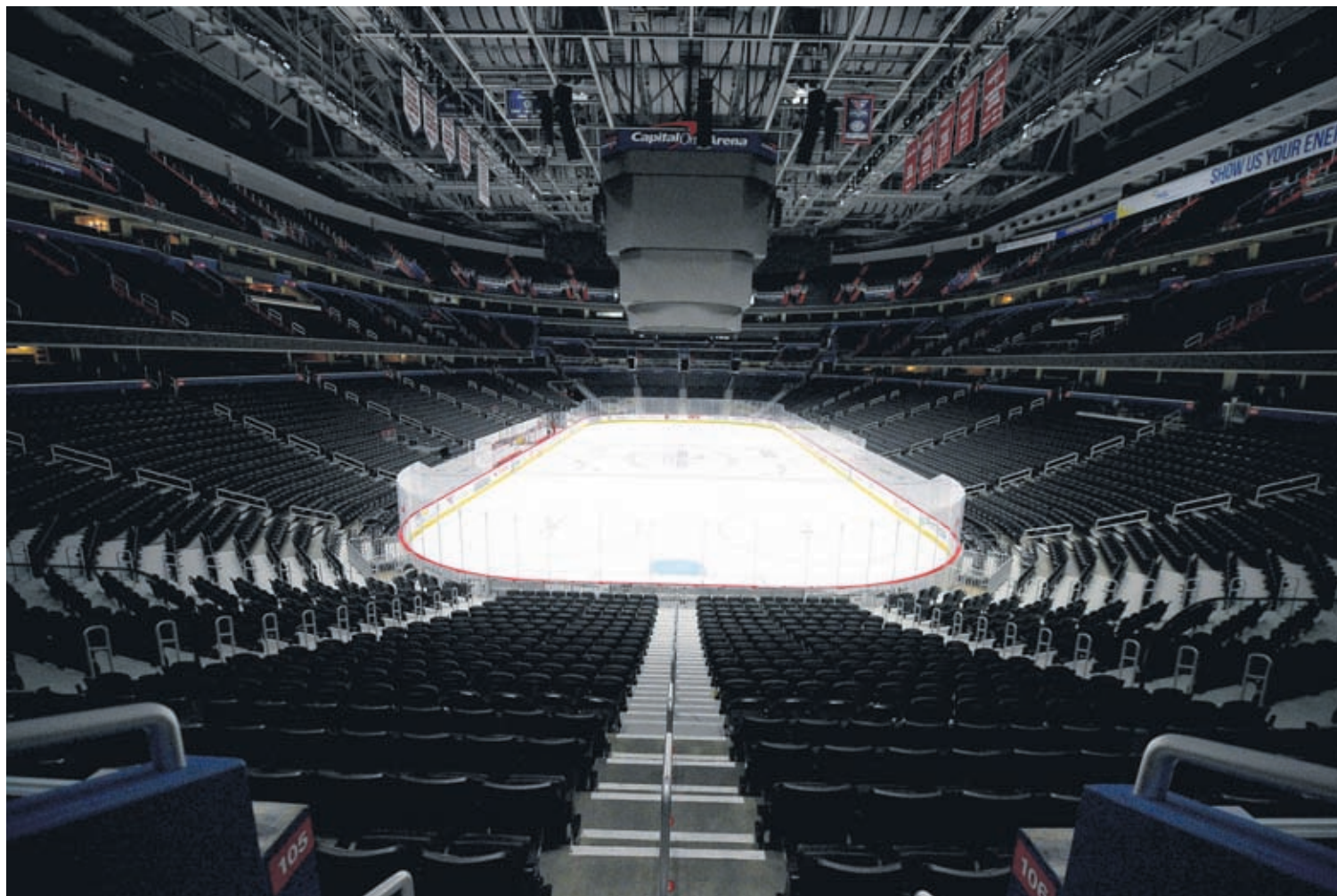
noted that golf was a non-contact sport.

"We feel that this is a safe environment in which to continue to move forward ... with limited personnel on site, and we're comfortable that this is the right path forward," Monahan said. "But that is something that we'll continue to consider as we go forward."

McIlroy, who's had hand sanitizer attached to his bag for the last two weeks, approved of the decision. However, he said it would only take one player or caddie to be tested positive for the virus and he felt the tour would have to shut down.

"I think for us to keep playing on tour, we all — the tour players and people that are involved — need to get tested," he said. □

On ice: NHL suspends season amid coronavirus pandemic



The Capital One Arena, home of the Washington Capitals NHL hockey club, sits empty Thursday, March 12, 2020, in Washington. Associated Press

By STEPHEN WHYNO and JOHN WAWROW
AP Hockey Writers

The NHL has placed its season on ice — for now.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said Thursday the league will "pause" its season, effective immediately, because of the coronavirus pandemic. The move came one day after the NBA suspended its season after a player tested positive for COVID-19.

Bettman said the hope is to resume play later and still award the Stanley Cup.

"Following last night's news that an NBA player has tested positive for coronavirus — and given that our leagues share so many facilities and locker rooms and it now seems likely that some member of the NHL community would test positive at some point — it is no longer appropriate to try to continue to play games at this time," Bettman said.

The NHL Players' Association backed the decision, calling it "an appropriate course of action at this time" and adding: "The players are looking forward to the opportunity to resume play in front of hockey fans ev-

erywhere."

The NHL is halting play with 189 games left in the season and uncertainty about how many more — if any — could be played before the playoffs, which typically begin in early April. A handful of European hockey leagues have already called off the remainder of their seasons.

"We will continue to monitor all the appropriate medical advice, and we will encourage our players and other members of the NHL community to take all reasonable precautions — including by self-quarantine, where appropriate," Bettman said. "Our goal is to resume play as soon as it is appropriate and prudent, so that we will be able to complete the season and award the Stanley Cup."

The NHL preceded its decision by having all 31 teams cancel practices and pregame skates.

It was difficult to determine what steps teams or players can take in regards to practicing or even working out during the hiatus. For now, Martin Frk scoring with 4:41 remaining in the Los Angeles Kings' 3-2 win over

Ottawa stands as the final goal of the 2019-20 season. "Public health and safety are a priority at a time like this," Edmonton captain Connor McDavid said. "As players, we support the NHL and NHLPA's decision to suspend the season for the safety of the teams and their fans. We look forward to the day we can get back playing the game we love in front of full arenas." Following St. Louis' 4-2 win at Anaheim, Blues coach Craig Berube was already wondering how to prepare for the unscheduled and indefinite time off.

"You can practice as much as you want but without playing games it is difficult," said Berube, who played 17 seasons in the NHL. "It's a bigger issue than a hockey game. We have to deal with what we have to. We have to keep ourselves in shape and as sharp as we can if we start up again." Former Sabres captain Brian Gionta was supposed to be among the players honored on Friday night as part of Buffalo's 50th anniversary celebrations.

"I think that's the least of the worries," Gionta said. "I

think everybody is worried about their families, their loved ones, and the bigger picture in general, and all that other stuff is secondary noise. It's something we haven't seen in our lifetime and it's much bigger than sports." For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover from the new virus.

The Stanley Cup has been awarded every year since 1893 with two exceptions: 1919, when the final was canceled after five games because of the Spanish flu outbreak, and 2005, when the season was called off because of a lockout.

"It's become apparent that the situation is much larger than sports," Boston center Patrice Bergeron said. "In a time like, this it is important we continue to listen to experts whose job it is to maintain the safety and well-being of the population until the issue stabilizes."

The NHL has not said any player has tested positive for COVID-19. The Washington Capitals, who used the same visiting locker room as the Jazz at Madison Square Garden in New York after them, said they "will continue to closely monitor the health of players, coaches and hockey operations staff." The Tampa Bay Lightning, who followed the Jazz into two arenas last weekend and occupied the same locker room while in Boston, said deep cleaning and sanitizing was done before they arrived.

"We also understand that with no actual contact with an infected person, our risk levels are low," the Lightning said in a statement. "As we are at no more risk than the general population and nobody in hockey operations has any symptoms, we are not subject to being tested at this time."

Dallas Stars forward Alexander Radulov has been sick, but team President Brad Alberts said players had not yet been tested. A message left for Radulov's agent was not immediately returned. "If anybody in organization gets virus, obviously we'll have to test," Alberts said. "No testing in place and I think we've got a healthy group as of right now." Alberts added the Stars would not be practicing during the league's hiatus. Asked what the best-case scenario is, Alberts said: "I think what everyone is hoping for is that we take a short pause over the next several weeks and in a month or so, we can kind of get the season back re-energized."

Other hockey competitions are also being called off:

— The American Hockey League and ECHL, the top two minor leagues in North America, and the junior Canadian Hockey League suspended play.

— The NWHL postponed its Isobel Cup final scheduled for Friday night in Boston against Minnesota.

— The NCAA Frozen Four was canceled along with the rest of the winter and spring championships across U.S. college sports. □

Kings win 7th straight game, edge Senators 3-2

By The Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Martin Frk scored the go-ahead goal in the third period, Gabriel Vilardi had a goal and an assist, and the Los Angeles Kings beat the Ottawa Senators 3-2 on Wednesday night for their seventh straight victory. Trevor Lewis also scored and Calvin Petersen made 24 saves for the Kings, who are 10-2-1 in their past 13 games. Bobby Ryan and Jayce Hawryluk had goals for the Senators, and Craig Anderson made 36 saves. Frk scored on an odd-man rush with 4:41 remaining to lead the Kings to their sixth straight win at home after Vilardi tied it at 2 on a shot from the right circle through traffic late on a power play at 9:12.

BLUES 4, DUCKS 2
ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Alex Pietrangelo scored two goals, Jake Allen made 36 saves and the St. Louis Blues defeated the Ducks. This was the game that was rescheduled after Blues defenseman Jay Bouwmeester suffered a cardiac episode 12:10 into the first

period on Feb. 11. It started with the score tied 1-1, as it was at the time of the postponement, after goals by Anaheim's Adam Henrique and St. Louis' Ivan Barbashev carried over. Zach Sanford also scored for St. Louis, which has won nine of its last 11 and lead the Western Conference with 94 points. Anaheim's Jani Hakanpaa had his first NHL goal, and Anthony Stolarz stopped 33 shots in his first NHL start of the season.

AVALANCHE 3, RANGERS 2, OT
DENVER (AP) — J.T. Compher scored at 2:50 of overtime and Tyson Jost and Vladislav Namestnikov also had goals to lead Colorado past New York. Cale Makar had three assists in his return to the lineup from an upper-body injury that kept him out for five games. Compher tipped in his shot from the top of the zone to give Colorado the win. Pavel Francouz stopped 30 shots. The Rangers gained a point on Carolina and Columbus in the chase for the

two wild-card spots in the Eastern Conference. Mika Zibanejad scored his 41st goal, Pavel Buchnevich also scored and Alexander Georgiev had 25 saves for New York, which is two points behind the Hurricanes and Blue Jackets.

BLACKHAWKS 6, SHARKS 2
CHICAGO (AP) — Patrick Kane scored twice, Alex DeBrincat had three assists and the Blackhawks beat the San Jose Sharks. Duncan Keith, Brandon Saad, Alex Nylander and rookie Dominik Kubalik also scored as the Blackhawks handed the Sharks their ninth loss in their last 12 games. Jonathan Toews had two assists, and Corey Crawford made 34 saves in his 10th straight start. Evander Kane and Timo Meier each had a goal and assist for San Jose in the opener of a four-game trip. Aaron Dell blocked 39 shots.

JETS 4, OILERS 2
EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Kyle Connor scored twice in the third period to lift Winnipeg to the victory. Blake Wheeler and Patrik



Los Angeles Kings center Trevor Lewis, left, celebrates his goal as Ottawa Senators goaltender Craig Anderson kneels at right during the first period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, March 11, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Laine also scored and Connor Hellebuyck made 36 saves for the Jets. They have won four in a row to move into a wild-card spot in the Western Conference. Tyler Ennis and Connor McDavid scored for the Oilers. They have lost two straight. □

Embiid returns to lead 76ers on night NBA suspends season

By The Associated Press
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joel Embiid had 30 points and 14 rebounds in his return from a sprained left shoulder, leading the Philadelphia 76ers to a 124-106 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Wednesday night in one of the final games before the NBA suspended its season. The NBA has suspended its season "until further notice" after a Utah Jazz player tested positive Wednesday for the coronavirus, a move that came only hours after the majority of the league's owners were leaning toward playing games without fans in arenas. A person with knowledge of the situation said the Jazz player who tested positive was center Rudy Gobert. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither the league nor the



Atlanta Hawks guard Vince Carter (15) hits a three-point basket in the final seconds of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks Wednesday, March 11, 2020, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

team confirmed the presumptive positive test. While Embiid returned from

a five-game absence, All-Star guard Ben Simmons will miss at least three more

weeks with nerve issues in his lower back. Christian Wood led the Pis-

tons with 32 points.

MAVERICKS 113, NUGGETS 97
DALLAS (AP) — Boban Marjanovic had 31 points and 17 rebounds, Luka Doncic scored 28 points and Dallas beat Denver. Jamal Murray had 25 points to lead Denver, and Will Barton had 23.

HORNETS 109, HEAT 98
MIAMI (AP) — Devonte' Graham scored 30 points, Caleb Martin had 19 and the Hornets shook off an early 20-point deficit to beat Miami, keeping the Heat's magic number for clinching a postseason berth at one.

KNICKS 136, HAWKS 131, OT
ATLANTA (AP) — Julius Randle scored 33 points, RJ Barrett added 26 and New York beat Atlanta after Trae Young led a furious Hawks comeback in the fourth quarter. □



Italy's Federica Brignone, second from right, celebrates with her team including her coach and brother Davide Brignone, right, after taking second place in an alpine ski, women's World Cup Super G, in La Thuile, Italy, Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020.

Associated Press

Brignone's ski title inspires Italians in virus epicenter

By **ANDREW DAMPF**
AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Amid drastic restrictions on everyday life in Italy, Federica Brignone's overall World Cup skiing title provided a rare moment to rejoice for her fellow citizens.

Never mind the fact that Brignone clinched the coveted large crystal globe when the circuit was cut short due to the spread of the virus outbreak — preventing a possible comeback from American rival Mikaela Shiffrin.

"I was able to win the battle in my sport. Together we'll beat this very difficult battle against the coronavirus," Brignone wrote in a letter to her fans Thursday, a day after the races in Åre, Sweden, were canceled. Italian Olympic Committee president Giovanni Malagò tweeted, "Your season deserved a different finale but the emotions you gave us this year can't be erased. Thanks to you we're on top of the world, and your title should be an inspiration for all of us!" The Gazzetta dello Sport declared Brignone "Miss World," in a front-page headline Thursday, while national daily La Repubblica labeled her "The first queen" because she's the first Italian women's overall champion in the 53-year history of the World Cup.

In Italy, the center of Europe's outbreak, new restrictions closed restaurants, cafes and retail shops after the prime minister imposed a nationwide lockdown on personal movement earlier in the week. Grocery stores, pharmacies and outdoor markets were among the few businesses allowed to operate.

With Brignone's flight to Milan canceled, she was embarking on a circuitous route back to Italy: A drive from Åre to the nearby airport in Östersund, then flights from Östersund to Stockholm, Stockholm to Munich and Munich to Geneva. From Geneva, she was hoping to find a way into Italy by car through the Mont Blanc tunnel — if it's still open. The tunnel connects France to her home region of Valle d'Aosta. Brignone's suitcase does not contain any crystal globes — even though she also won the giant slalom and combined titles this season — because the International Ski Federation did not have time to set up victory ceremonies before skiers darted home.

"I really want to experience hearing the Italian anthem with the globe in my hand," Brignone wrote.

"I'm returning home and I know what awaits me and all Italians. I won't be able

to continue my job. While my rivals will still train and ski, we Italians won't be able to," Brignone added, referring to the closure of all ski lifts in Italy. "We won't even be allowed to go to the gym. But I still feel fortunate, because I live in Valle d'Aosta and from my window I can at least see snow and mountains. It will provide a good opportunity to clean up my house and find the right place to put the globes, when they arrive." Brignone was traveling with her younger brother, Davide, who is also her coach, and was looking forward to reuniting with her mother, Maria "Ninna" Rosa Quario, a former racer who won four World Cup races from 1979-83.

It was a banner year for the Italian women, who won eight races — five of them by Brignone — and registered 23 podium results.

Still, Brignone's title was in part a result of Shiffrin's six-week break from the tour following the death of her father. "The only regret is not to have won it on the course and not to have raised the cup with my team, because they would have deserved that," Brignone said.

Norwegian skier Aleksander Aamodt Kilde is also yet to be awarded for his first overall title. □

Virus-related sports cancellations leave little to bet on

By **WAYNE PARRY**
Associated Press
ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)

— There's still darts. Or New Zealand cricket. The fast-spreading coronavirus has led to an unprecedented slew of cancellations or suspensions of most major professional and college sports events in the U.S., particularly within the last 48 hours. Baseball, basketball, hockey, pro soccer and college basketball all announced they were either suspending or postponing the start of their seasons due to the virus and the advice of medical professionals to avoid large gatherings that could help further spread the disease.

The virus is a deadly serious concern that's causing the cancellation of events worth untold millions of dollars, and is disrupting people's lives in many ways. For those who routinely bet on sports, it has taken most of the action off the board.

"I feel a little empty inside," said Jef Corrales, a retired marine who lives near Charlotte, North Carolina. "Now I don't really have anything to talk about. As guys into sports, that's how we communicate: 'Who'd you bet on, why did you do that?' I don't know what else to do now."

"Since October, this is the first day I didn't make a bet," he said. "Actually, I did, but they got canceled."

On Thursday, the major college conferences canceled their championship tournaments, including one game that made it to halftime before being abandoned. Hours later, the NCAA canceled its national championship tournaments for men and women.

In addition to the official bets, the NCAA Tourna-



This March 12, 2020 shows a sports betting ticket at the Golden Nugget casino in Atlantic City, N.J. where all five games that were bet on were canceled due to coronavirus precautions.

Associated Press

ment is the nation's largest unofficial gambling event. Millions of office pools are also canceled. Major League Baseball, due to begin its season in two weeks, said it was pushing the start back at least two weeks and suspending all spring training games.

An untold portion of the millions in lost economic activity that would result if the suspensions last for any length of time would include lost revenue at sports books in the U.S., where legal sports betting is in its third year of expansion following a 2018 U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

"It's uncharted territory," said Joe Asher, CEO of William Hill US. "You don't know how long it's going to last. Obviously the timing's not great, right before the NCAA tournament."

On a home page on which it used to list upcoming basketball, football and baseball games, among other events, the Golden Nugget's online sports book on Thursday featured a handful of soccer games in Europe, Brazil Iceland and Mexico; a golf championship; a New Zealand cricket match, and three darts matches. (Yes. Darts.) □

Allyson Felix

Continued from Page 17

That's the mark she wants to leave as she attempts to make her fifth Olympic team this summer.

"Before, when I thought about legacy, I thought about medals," said the 34-year-old Felix, who plans to compete in the 200 and 400 meters at the U.S. Olympic trials in June. "Being older, the person I want to be has definitely shifted on all of that.

"I feel like I'm right where I'm supposed to be. I feel stronger than ever, just with everything I've been through." On Nov. 28, 2018, Felix, only 32 weeks into her pregnancy, delivered her daughter via emergency C-section after tests showed Camryn's heart rate had dropped to dangerous levels. Camryn weighed in at 3 pounds, 7 ounces.

It's been a long, bumpy road back to the track.

It's also paved a new path, too — to highlight some inequities in her sport.

At present, Felix remains without a shoe deal ("but should be soon," she recently revealed).

Felix's deal with Nike ran out in December 2017. She wanted to start a family in '18, but was worried about the ramifications. She explained her situation in a New York Times editorial piece on May 22: Nike wanted to pay her 70% less. Although she was willing to accept a reduction, she wanted assurances around maternity. It was declined. She followed the likes of Alysia Montano and Kara Goucher in speaking out about the need for sponsors to support female competitors before, dur-

ing and after pregnancy — that contracts shouldn't penalize someone for starting a family. It ultimately led to change: Nike later announced the shoe company planned to alter contracts so female athletes weren't penalized for childbirth.

"Everyone feels what's happening," said Felix, who addressed the Ways and Means committee last spring about the disproportionate risks facing African American women during pregnancy and childbirth. "We want to keep moving forward. There have been so many conversations. I was just talking to Alysia about this the other day. We're just really united.

"When that happens, special things can take place." There would be no better way for the world to truly hear Felix than for her to be a main player at the Olympics later this year. Gradually, she is rounding back into form that helped her capture nine overall Olympic medals.

A big breakthrough for Felix was at the U.S. championships last July, where she finished sixth in the 400-meter final during her first competition in 13 months.

Two months later, she ran on the 4x400 mixed relay at the world championships in Doha, Qatar, which earned a gold medal. It was her 12th at a world championships and surpassed the number won by Jamaican standout Usain Bolt. Felix later earned another as part of the 4x400 women's relay.

"I feel like my strength and my physical strength and my sprinting are really close," said Felix, who's



In this July 27, 2019, file photo, Allyson Felix holds her daughter Camryn after running the women's 400-meter dash final at the U.S. Championships athletics meet in Des Moines, Iowa.

Associated Press

partnering with Northwestern Mutual and talking to advisers to map out her financial future. "I'm really getting big glimpses of where I used to be. That's been super-encouraging." A typical day for Felix means an early wake-up call to feed her daughter breakfast before passing Camryn off to her husband, Kenneth. From there, it's three hours of track practice with Camryn sometimes making a guest appearance.

"She's walking and running everywhere now," Felix said. "We're trying to keep up with her."

A future sprinter — just like mom?

"She's not quite staying in her lane," Felix cracked. "So that might add a few more seconds. But she's out there

trying."

After practice, it's two more hours in the gym, chiropractor/massage appointments, media/business obligations and then home for dinner followed by helping put Camryn to bed.

"And then get ready to do that all over again," Felix said.

During the indoor season, Felix ran a few 60-meter races just to get her rhythm back. She hasn't competed in a 200 race — her signature event — since July 2017.

The early season races were also a chance to give her longtime coach, Bob Kersee, some film to gauge where she's at in her preparation.

Felix feels confident in trying for the 200-400 double at trials in Eugene, Oregon.

The 400 final is June 21 and the start of the 200 on June 25. It would be trickier in Tokyo, though, with the first round of the 400 scheduled for the morning of Aug. 4 and the 200 final that night. "As long as I'm healthy and feeling good, I definitely want to do both," Felix said. There's no question about this: She will bring Camryn to Tokyo should she make the team.

"It would just be so special because of all it represented to get there," Felix said. "It's really been a great journey for me, learning and getting stronger and finding myself more — and my voice. I'm grateful for all the stuff along the way, but having that moment in Tokyo, I wouldn't even be able to compare it with anything else." □

Packers get cap relief by releasing tight end Jimmy Graham

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The Green Bay Packers have released tight end Jimmy Graham after the 33-year-old veteran spent two seasons with the franchise. Packers general manager Brian Gutekunst announced the move Thursday. Graham had tweeted out

a reference to his "next opportunity" on Wednesday after ESPN reported his release was imminent.

"The last two years have certainly been interesting!" Graham tweeted. "A lot of memories, friendships and humbling moments that I will carry with me into the next opportunity.

Thank you for the support during our exciting run this year toward that ever so elusive ring."

The move creates about \$8 million in cap space for the Packers.

Graham caught 38 passes for 447 yards and three touchdowns last season. He had 55 receptions for

636 yards and two scores in 2018. The five-time Pro Bowl selection previously played with New Orleans (2010-14) and Seattle (2015-17). Graham has 649 catches for 7,883 yards and 74 touchdowns in 153 career games with 111 starts.

In other moves, the Packers promoted Luke Getsy

to quarterbacks/passing game coordinator and Jason Vrable to wide receivers coach and named Butch Barry a senior analyst. Getsy had been quarterbacks coach and Vrable was an offensive assistant last year. Barry was the University of Miami's offensive line coach last season. □



This Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020 photo shows the icon for TikTok taken in New York.

Associated Press

Teens love the video app TikTok. Do they love it too much?

By **TALI ARBEL**
AP Technology Writer

From the perspective of teens, TikTok is a major new outlet for self-expression, one proudly home to the silly, the loud and the weird.

To others, the Chinese-owned online video service is an unnerving black box that could be sharing information with the Chinese government, facilitating espionage, or just promoting videos and songs some parents consider lewd. (TikTok denies the first two concerns and says it's working on the third.)

Welcome to the bifurcated world of TikTok, an emerging social-media powerhouse that lets users create and share short videos, many no longer than 15 seconds. "That's where the Gen Z party is," says Kory Marchisotto, chief marketer for e.l.f. Cosmetics. "That's where they're all hanging out."

There's little doubt that TikTok users find it irresistible. But TikTok is also the subject of a U.S. national-security review and a Pentagon ban. U.S. lawmakers are worried about national security and censorship risks posed by TikTok's Chinese ownership. TikTok draws so much attention because it's the first China-owned social-media service to make serious inroads in the West. It's a smash in the U.S. and other countries, attracting celebrities and companies eager to reach kids and young adults disconnected from traditional media. The NFL has an account. So do Chipotle, Reese Witherspoon, and The Washington Post. The U.S. Army previously used it to recruit soldiers. People have downloaded TikTok 1.65 billion times, the analysis firm Sensor Tower estimates. In 2019, it was the second-most downloaded app in the Apple and Google app stores, trailing only WhatsApp. Research firm eMarketer estimates that TikTok roughly doubled its U.S. user base to 37.2 million in 2019.

To many users, what's special is TikTok's goofiness and sense of genuine fun. To use, just download the app and start swiping through videos. You don't have to friend anyone or search for anything to watch. If you don't go looking for it, you might not ever come across angry political discussions, much less envy-generating vacation shots from friends. Instead, you'll likely to encounter a barrage of funny, meme-y videos from total strangers that TikTok spools up for you, personalizing the feed as you go.

Politics, of course, is still there; so is the social-media plague of misinformation. TikTok says it prohibits harmful misinformation. TikTok makes money from ads, and sometimes the campaigns aren't readily identifiable as ads. Companies can start hashtag-based "challenges" that invite users to participate by posting their own videos, often incorporating a particular dance or dance move. E.l.f. Cosmetics' "eyeslipsface" campaign, for example, had people wink and purse their lips to go with the lyrics of an original song. Users created 3 million videos, with 4 billion views. The service has helped launch musical stars like Lil Nas X, whose "Old Town Road" is the longest-running No. 1 song in the history of Billboard's charts. There are pranksters, funny skits, behind-the-scenes of fast-food operations and "glow-ups" — before-and-after shots of someone making themselves look cuter. Some are more random: Kim Kardashian cooking parodies?

Some users say TikTok is more authentic than the self-consciously pretty and polished Instagram. Emilie Richer, a 19-year-old from Simcoe, Ontario, says she uses Instagram for "photos that look nice, or the good things I'm doing" and TikTok to "get loose, make jokes, pull pranks and stuff, dress up weird." A TikTok video of Richer catching a pickle thrown into her mouth went viral in November. □



In this photo taken on Thursday, March 5, 2020, Abubakr Salih Babiker, a climate scientist at the Intergovernmental Authority on Development's Climate Prediction and Applications Center, shows server racks containing a supercomputer in Nairobi, Kenya.

Associated Press

Supercomputer helps in tracking East Africa locust outbreak

By **RODNEY MUHUMUZA** and **DESMOND TIRO**
Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — A supercomputer is boosting efforts in East Africa to control a locust outbreak that raises what the U.N. food agency calls "an unprecedented threat" to the region's food security. The computer, a donation from Britain, uses satellite data to track locust swarms and predict their next destination. Quickly sharing the information of the locusts' movements with regional authorities is key to controlling the outbreak, as even a small swarm of locusts in a single day can move nearly 100 miles and consume the amount of crops that would otherwise feed 35,000 people.

Based in a regional climate center in Kenya, where the insects have been particularly destructive, the supercomputer system "produces extensive weather forecasts to predict the high winds, rainfall, and humidity that provide ideal breeding conditions for locusts so climate experts can predict their next destination," the U.K.'s Department for International Development said in a statement. "By improving early warning systems we are helping charities and African governments to take rapid action to protect vulnerable communities."

Kenya, Somalia and Uganda have been battling the worst locust outbreak that parts of East Africa have seen in 70 years. Swarms have also been sighted in Djibouti, Eritrea, Tanzania, Congo and South Sudan, a country where roughly half the population already faces hunger after years of civil war.

The threat from the locusts "remains extremely alarming" in the Horn of Africa, where "widespread breeding is in progress and new swarms are starting to form, representing an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods at the beginning of the upcoming cropping season," according to a warning issued this month by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

Locust swarms, sometimes as large as some cities, can destroy crops and devastate pasture for animals. Aerial spraying is generally considered the only effective control method. In Uganda, where the locust infestation has recently spread to more than 20 districts in the country's north and northeast, soldiers have been battling swarms using hand-held spray pumps because of difficulties in getting aircraft as well as the recommended pesticide. □

Coronavirus forces small businesses to rethink strategies

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Renee and Michael Brown planned to open a third location for their coffee company — and put their plans on hold when the coronavirus hit.

Sales at the Browns' San Francisco coffee shop, Weaver's Coffee & Tea, are down about 4%; while that's not drastic, the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S. is still in its early stages and the Browns feel it's too risky to make a big commitment.

"We're safe the way we are right now," Renee Brown says. "But what if it becomes a pandemic where you can't leave your house?"

As the coronavirus spreads, many small business owners are rethinking their strategies and adjusting the way they work. They're responding to a drop in revenue as customers stay home, cut back on purchases or demand that companies help protect them from the virus that has sickened more than 1,300 people in the U.S. and more than 127,000 worldwide. And some small manufacturers and retailers, the first to deal with fallout from the virus as it stalled Chinese exports, are still struggling to get product shipments even as China's factories have been reopening.

Businesses are also feeling the impact of the economic uncertainty created by the virus and the ensuing turbulence in the stock market, which forced the Dow Jones Industrial Average down more than 25% since it reached a new closing high Feb. 12. The market turbulence has discouraged the Browns from seeking investor money to fund their planned expansion. They're aware that would-be investors are reluctant to commit money to small companies amid unknowns like how widespread the virus will be and what damage it will cause to the economy.

"We need to wait until things dissipate," Brown says. "I'm probably going to focus on what I can accomplish



In this photo taken Wednesday, March 11, 2020, Renee Brown, vice-president of Wild Card Roasters, poses by an antique coffee roaster at her cafe in San Rafael, Calif.

today." At some businesses, the spread of the coronavirus is forcing owners to change the fundamental ways they work. At Fracchia & Co., a company that offers counseling and advice about professional, career, marriage and relationship issues, staffers are now agreeing to clients' requests for meetings over the phone rather than in person. That's something the Sydney, Australia, practice has not done in the past. But nearly two-thirds of the firm's clients have asked for phone meetings since the virus outbreak began, and while co-founder Danielle Fracchia has reservations, she's saying yes. "Face-to-face is more engaging," Fracchia says. "You can't be feeling their energy, seeing their body language, picking up cues when you're on the phone." Some clients asked in the past to work over the phone, but "we haven't entertained them for all these reasons," Fracchia says.

The outbreak has forced businesses of all sizes to adjust — for example, business travel is being canceled and meetings are held via videoconferencing. But small businesses can be particularly vulnerable to changes in spending by consumers and other companies. The cancellations of meetings, social

events and the suspension of public gatherings including NBA games hurts companies that provide food, equipment and services for hosts and event organizers, and these are often small businesses.

Business is down by nearly half at Jet City Device Repair's two Seattle-area locations that repair smartphones and other electronic devices.

"People aren't getting out. They're choosing to live with cracked screens," owner Matt McCormick says. He also has a store in Chicago where business is down slightly.

McCormick isn't cutting his staffers' hours although business is so slow. But, he says, "if this is a three- or six month issue, we would have to start." Some brand-new entrepreneurs are being forced to rework their strategies. Randi Braun, who set up her executive coaching company three

months ago, is pleased with how the business is going but her growth is coming from individual clients — corporate clients have put their plans to work with her on hold. She in turn is rethinking some of the investments she was planning for her business, such as starting a new training program. "I'm watching my spending much more carefully than I was just six weeks ago," says Braun, who's located in New York. "I hate being part of that domino effect, but the prudence feels necessary."

The outbreak is prompting some businesses to accelerate planned changes. Dr. Adam Mamelak, a dermatologist in Austin, Texas, has considered adding telemedicine to his practice; that would allow him to diagnose patients' conditions using video. No cases or suspected cases of coronavirus have been reported yet in Austin, but the big

South by Southwest film, media and music gathering in the city scheduled to start Friday has been canceled. Mamelak has had patients request consultations via video when they're too busy to come in. If and when the coronavirus spreads to Austin, he expects to hear more of those requests.

"People are afraid they could expose themselves coming to the office," he says. "Many of us feel that this is definitely coming and we have to have our avenues open to telemedicine." After the virus was first reported in China, many factories shut down in January or February to try to slow its spread. Some have reopened, but the flow of goods is weak, leaving some U.S. companies struggling and their owners trying to decide their next step. Yungi Chu is worried that he might have to cut his employees' hours. He can't get most of the headsets he sells on his website, HeadSetPlus.com, can't contact some of his suppliers and he hears that others are working with skeleton crews.

"Most of our factory orders are still on back order there. We have many customer orders that are canceled due to no stock," says Chu, whose business is based in Redwood City, California. He estimates that his business is down by more than 10%. □

Associated Press

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Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



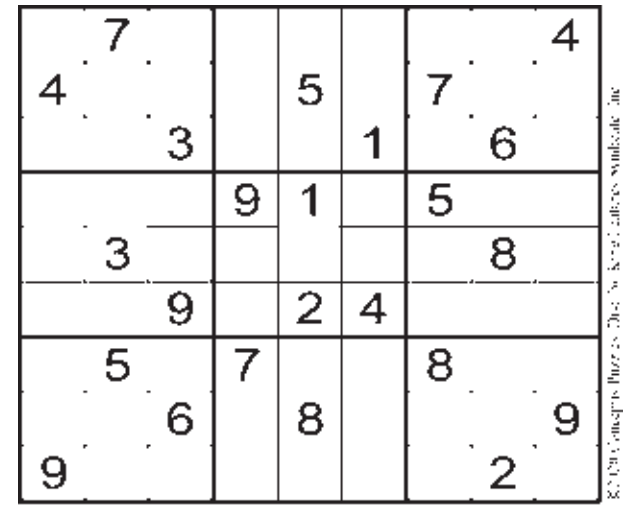
Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

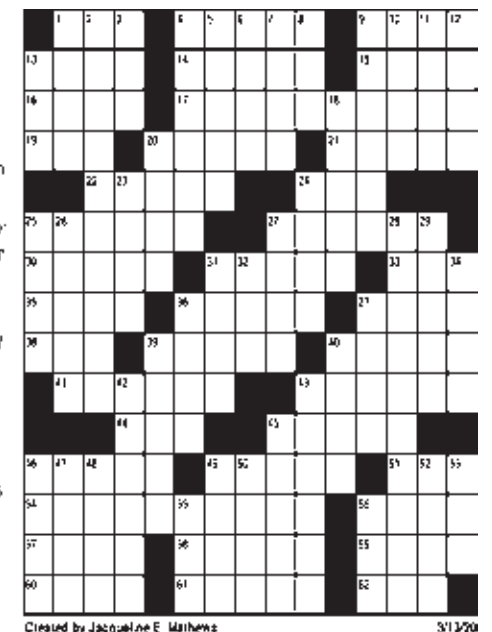
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	6	9	5	4	2	8	1	3
5	1	2	8	9	3	6	4	7
3	4	8	6	7	1	2	5	9
9	5	1	2	6	8	7	3	4
4	8	6	7	3	5	9	2	1
2	3	7	9	1	4	5	8	6
1	9	5	4	8	7	3	6	2
8	7	4	3	2	6	1	9	5
6	2	3	1	5	9	4	7	8

- ACROSS**
- 1 Young Sheldon network
 - 4 Acting award
 - 9 Dog command
 - 13 Job opening
 - 14 Astute
 - 15 Coesque gown
 - 16 Shacks
 - 17 After death
 - 18 Are we there?
 - 20 Orchestra section
 - 21 Ta marsh
 - 22 grasses
 - 23 Balanced
 - 24 flash, instantly
 - 25 Regular date
 - 27 off wars
 - 28 away angry
 - 30 Snitches
 - 31 Re gous
 - 32 carphor
 - 33 House member's
 - 34 er arch
 - 35 Old mazes
 - 36 Get on the scale
 - 37 ill-mannered
 - 38 1-1's forerunner
 - 39 TV's 'Evening
 - 40 unclear
 - 41 Lucinski or Kwan
 - 43 Rather
 - 44 Sunbather's
 - 45 Soda division
 - 46 Move over a bit
 - 49 Triumvir
 - 51 Varatee's home
 - 54 Pen name
 - 56 As straight
 - 57 arrow
 - 58 Zealous
 - 59 Reluctant ship
 - 60 Group of cattle
 - 60 Acquires
 - 61 Florence's and
 - 62 Classified
 - 63 newspaper
 - 64 section

- DOWN**
- 1 The plu hint
 - 2 Traffic jam
 - 3 Canonized folks
 - 4 after
 - 4 Fish-eating bird
 - 5 of prey
 - 5 Sailing hazard
 - 6 Lazy singer
 - 7 Wama
 - 7 Panting &
 - 8 dancing
 - 8 Record speed
 - 9 letters
 - 9 Sima
 - 10 watercourse
 - 10 Carry-on bag
 - 11 perhaps
 - 11 Elderly
 - 12 Candied
 - 13 sweet side d sh
 - 13 Hardy outgoing
 - 18 Papey's Believe
 - 20 Undies for some
 - 23 Sups
 - 24 Dermatis
 - 25 symptom
 - 25 Drive last
 - 26 Death's partner
 - 27 in phrase
 - 27 Cooking herb
 - 28 Moved forward
 - 29 South Korea's
 - 30 largest city
 - 31 ut become
 - 32 emotional
 - 32 Gel ol, shed
 - 34 Hunted animal
 - 36 Since ?
 - 36 That's news to
 - 36 me!
 - 37 Fishing worms
 - 38 Iowa or Ohio
 - 40 Flower holder
 - 42 In disagreement
 - 43 Decet
 - 45 Desert transport
 - 46 Jagged
 - 47 projection
 - 47 Sheltered in let
 - 48 Forget to mentor
 - 49 Th-out
 - 50 Wahne's
 - 50 dance
 - 52 Rabbit
 - 52 antenna
 - 53 'Sanford Son'
 - 55 Taro root paste
 - 56 moment
 - 56 instant of
 - 56 realization



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

REST	OMEGA	BLDB
ORLY	REGAL	LINE
AGES	NEGLIGENCE	
DON	METS	LAKES
DOORS	TIC	
CREAMY	GOTHIC	
LARKS	BLITZ	NHL
ACES	ROUGE	THEE
YES	PANGS	POISE
STARRY	DOUBTS	
MAE	CAPRI	
ASPEN	WANE	TUT
BLANKETING	WIRE	
CARD	DAFOE	HOGS
DYES	SNEER	ONES

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Halley Time Travel

Marriott Ocean Club
Platinum

1 BR Ocean view \$ 10K
1 BR Ocean Front \$ 20 K
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$26 K

Marriott Surf Club
Platinum

2 BR Ocean View \$16 K
2 BR Ocean side \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$26K
3 BR Ocean view \$28K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR PH wk 11/12
Building 9 on the 7th floor
30 weeks remain \$35 K each
1 BR wk 11
Building 7 on the 3rd floor
33 weeks remain \$14 K

Divi Village

2 BR wk 13 \$13 K
Building C 28weeks remain
Casa del Mar
1 BR wk 12 \$7500

212598

Divi Links Golf

1 BR wk 11 \$9 K
Birdie 3 with 26 weeks remain
1 BR wk 12/13 \$9,5 K each
Birdie 10 ground floor
33/34 weeks remain

La cabana beach and casino

1 BR wk 11/12 \$8 5 K each
4 th floor pool /Ocean
Sunday check in
Dutch Village
1 BR wk 9 old contract
16 weeks remain \$7,5 K

Caribbean palm village

1 BR wk 13 \$6K
Second floor
1 BR wk 14 \$6 K
Ground floor

Le Vent Condo

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Will heat stop the spread of new virus? No one really knows

By MARIA CHENG and VICTORIA MILKO

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— As outbreaks of the new coronavirus that first emerged in China continue to spread in more than 100 countries — particularly those experiencing winter — one of the biggest unanswered questions is how it will behave in warmer weather. Like influenza, the new disease is a respiratory infection belonging to a family of viruses that typically survive longer in colder environments. Most people experience only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough, but older adults and people with existing health problems may have more severe illnesses, including pneumonia.

The virus has reached every continent except Antarctica but has yet to cause major outbreaks in the Southern Hemisphere. Some key questions on how the virus might behave once the temperature rises: **WILL THE VIRUS RETREAT IN HOT WEATHER?**

No one knows. The new coronavirus was identified only in late December and most scientists say there is simply no data to suggest the COVID-19 cases will start declining in warmer weather.

"We have to assume that the virus will continue to have the capacity to spread, and it's a false hope to say yes, it will just disappear in the summertime like influenza," said Dr. Michael Ryan, the World Health Organization's emergencies chief. Dr. Dale Fisher, a senior consultant in infectious diseases at the National University of Singapore, was similarly unconvinced that hot weather would sig-



In this March 9, 2020, file photo, people rest in the sunshine in the World Trade Center's Liberty Park.

Associated Press

nificantly slow its spread. "Maybe after it's been around for a few years and most of the world has had it, maybe then it will settle into a more flu-like pattern," he said. "Since we have no natural immunity to this, we're all much more vulnerable, no matter what the weather is."

But Dr. Mohammad Sajadi, an associate professor of medicine at the University of Maryland, thinks weather might play a role. He and colleagues found a striking temperature similarity among regions with sustained outbreaks of COVID-19: between 5 and 11 degrees Celsius (41 and 52 degrees Fahrenheit). "If we're right about seasonality, that could help with surveillance and other public health measures," Sajadi said.

HOW HAVE RELATED VIRUSES BEHAVED?

The new virus is genetically related to SARS and MERS. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome first broke out in China in late 2002 and ultimately sickened about 8,000 people worldwide before it was declared contained in July 2003. But the arrival of summer wasn't what stopped SARS. Extraordinary measures that included shutting down travel from epicenters in Asia and Canada and a mass culling of palm civets that spread the disease to humans were largely credited for curbing the disease.

Although the transmission of Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome has never been entirely interrupted, its spread to humans from camels is mostly sporadic, sparking limited outbreaks since being identified in 2012.

"I don't think there's any-

thing we can say about seasonality and the coronavirus based on what we've seen with SARS and MERS," said Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota. "I've been in the Arabian peninsula when MERS is spreading in 110-degree (43 degrees Celsius) heat just fine," he said.

WHY HASN'T THE VIRUS CAUSED SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE EPIDEMICS?

It could be too early; past pandemics have sometimes taken months to reach every country in the world. Surveillance might also be an issue. The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to those for numerous other diseases, including flu, measles and malaria, so detecting cases of the new virus is challenging. Benjamin Cowling, head of the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division at the School of Public Health at Hong Kong University, said he suspects wider outbreaks exist in countries that already have confirmed cases, such as Thailand and Vietnam.

"Most of the typically hot countries, we think, have not been testing as aggres-

sively as some of the colder ones have been," he said. Cowling also said that how people behave in winter environments is likely having an effect.

"People are more likely to spend time indoors in colder weather than they are in the summer," he said. "More time indoors means that people are more likely to be in the same rooms together and thus get infected."

Sajadi, the professor who found the temperature similarities, acknowledged epidemics are influenced by numerous factors but hypothesized that countries with cooler weather might be worse affected by the coronavirus, noting that even southern parts of countries with big outbreaks, like Italy and Iran, have not been hit as badly. But, Cowling said, higher temperatures are unlikely to fully stop the continued spread of the virus.

"I don't think we can count on it stopping in the summer. It may slow down, but it won't be stopped," he said. "At this rate, we would expect every country in the world to have cases in about nine months — we're headed towards that now." □

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Tom Hanks, Rita Wilson in Australian hospital with new virus

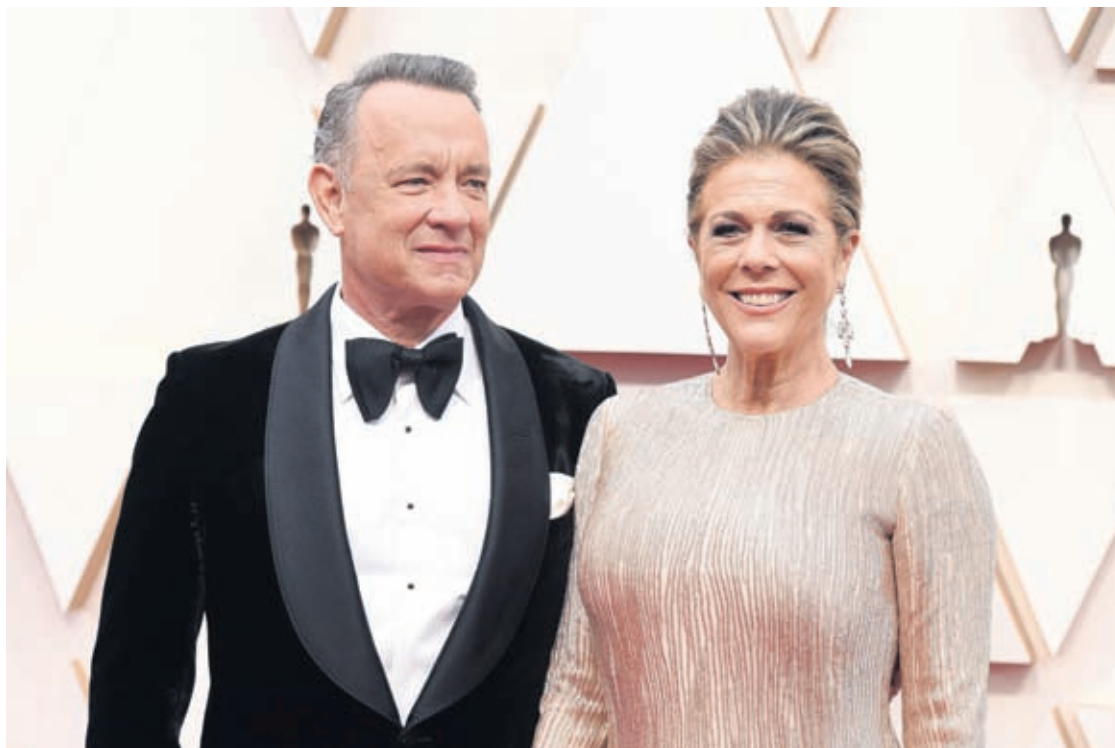
By MOUSSA MOUSSA

Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — Tom Hanks and his wife Rita Wilson are isolated in stable condition in an Australian hospital Thursday after contracting the new coronavirus, the actor and Australian officials said.

The two-time Oscar winner is easily the most famous person yet to disclose they have COVID-19, which the World Health Organization has declared a pandemic. Hanks said he and Wilson had felt tired, with colds, aches and slight fevers. "To play things right, as is needed in the world right now, we were tested for the coronavirus and were found to be positive," he said, adding they'll be "isolated for as long as public health and safety requires."

Australian officials said the couple were being treated at a Queensland hospital. "We wish them a very speedy recovery," state Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk told reporters. Hanks had been in Australia shooting an untitled Elvis Presley biopic directed by Baz Luhrmann. Hanks plays Presley's man-



In this Feb. 9, 2020 file photo, Tom Hanks, left, and Rita Wilson arrive at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. The couple have tested positive for the coronavirus, the actor said in a statement Wednesday, March 11.

Associated Press

ager, Colonel Tom Parker. The film, slated for release in October 2021, has suspended production, Warner Bros. said.

Hanks, after accepting the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the Golden Globes this year, spoke backstage about taking on the Parker role. "I will then finally have an answer to all these stu-

pid questions about why I never played a bad guy," he said as the room burst into laughter.

Hanks and Wilson, both 63, were married in 1988. In 2013, Hanks disclosed he has Type 2 diabetes.

Chet Hanks later posted on social media that his parents were doing fine and thanked fans for their con-

cern.

Wilson had performed at the Sydney Opera House on Saturday night and earlier last week in Brisbane.

Queensland health authorities would not give specifics on their health due to privacy issues. But the state's update on its coronavirus infections describe a U.S. couple of their age both in

stable condition.

Palaszczuk said people who had been in close contact with Hanks and Wilson will have to self-quarantine but she cautioned that people who had taken selfies with Hanks recently should not panic about contracting the virus.

She said she had spoken to Luhrmann and conveyed his reassurances that he would comply with the government's health restrictions.

Australia has confirmed more than 120 cases of infection with the new coronavirus, with three deaths from COVID-19.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. People with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover, WHO says. □

Virus prompts late shows to drop audiences, 'Survivor' delay

By LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The ripple effect of the new coronavirus on the entertainment industry reached late-night and daytime television, a TV fan festival and far beyond to the series "Survivor" in Fiji.

Nickelodeon's annual Kids' Choice Awards, set for March 22 in Los Angeles, also is affected. It will be postponed for the "safety and well-being" of all involved with the show, the channel said Wednesday.

"The Tonight Show" and other late-night talk shows in New York announced Wednesday they will tape without audiences, while CBS said that production on the next season of "Survivor" was being postponed.



This combination of photos show, from left, host Jimmy Fallon on the set of "The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon," on Feb. 3, 2020, from left, host Trevor Noah on the set of "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah" and host Stephen Colbert on the set of "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" on Jan. 30, 2020.

Associated Press

In a statement Wednesday, NBC said it was suspending live audiences for Jimmy Fallon's "Tonight Show" and "Late Night with Seth Meyers" starting Monday, citing the safety of guest and employees as the "top priority."

CBS announced that "The

Late Show with Stephen Colbert" also will tape without an in-studio audience, as did Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah," HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" and Bravo's "Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen,"

starting March 15.

"For the past several weeks, 'The Late Show' producers have consulted daily to share information with other New York-based late night shows, who will also be moving forward without an audience," CBS said in a statement.

The step was taken based on guidance from New York City officials, CBS said, and out of an "abundance of caution regarding" the virus and the uncertainty of the situation.

Another daytime program, "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," said it will suspend audience attendance starting Monday. The action won't affect the talk show's production schedule, and it will be regularly reviewed, Telepictures Productions said.

Meanwhile, a postpone-

ment was announced for PaleyFest LA 2020, the TV festival that was set to begin Friday and run through March 22 with salutes to shows including "Modern Family" and "The Mandalorian."

Also Wednesday, CBS said production on the 41st edition of "Survivor" has been postponed in response to the spread of the coronavirus. Filming was scheduled to begin later this month in Fiji. But CBS now said production will start on May 19, depending on events.

The entertainment sector's response to the unfolding crisis has included cancellation of the SXSW festival in Austin, Texas, and delays of events include California's Coachella festival and the release of the latest James Bond movie. □

'Quiet Place 2' delayed, as Hollywood braces for shut down

Hollywood braces for shut-down, clearing release calendar

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The entertainment industry, a business predicated on drawing crowds in theaters, cinemas and concert venues, braced Thursday for a potential shutdown from the coronavirus as upcoming movies were canceled,

festivals scuttled and live audiences eliminated from television shows.

To accommodate calls for social distancing, Hollywood moved to pause the normal hum of TV productions and the bustle of red-carpet movie premieres. The upcoming releases of "A Quiet Place 2" and the latest "Fast & Furious" movie, "F9," joined the many postponements.

The dawning awareness



Emily Blunt and John Krasinski attend the world premiere of Paramount Pictures' "A Quiet Place Part II" at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall on Sunday, March 8, 2020, in New York

Associated Press

of the virus' reach had already forced the cancellation or postponement of all major imminent events on the calendar, including the sprawling South by Southwest conference and festival in Austin, Texas; Hollywood's annual movie expo CinemaCon, in Las Vegas; this month's Kids Choice Awards in Los Angeles; the sunny California music festival Coachella, which was put off until October; and big television events like the NBA season, which was put on hiatus Wednesday after a player tested positive for the virus.

On Thursday, California and some states urged bans of not just the largest events but also gatherings of more than 250 to help stymie the virus' spread. That brought a new focus on Broadway, multiplexes and smaller concert venues.

California Governor Gavin Newsom recommended the cancellation or postponement of gatherings of 250 or more people through at least the end of the month.

Hollywood still planned to usher in several new movie releases to theaters beginning Thursday evening. North American's largest chains, AMC and Regal, did not immediately respond to emails Thursday. Cinemas have been closed in China, India, Italy, Poland, Greece and other countries.

John Krasinski, writer and director of "A Quiet Place 2," announced Thursday that his film from Paramount

Pictures would not open next week as planned but be postponed to as yet-announced date. Universal Pictures also announced that "F9" won't open May 22 as planned but in April next year.

"One of the things I'm most proud of is that people have said our movie is one you have to see together," Krasinski said in a message on social media. "Well due to the ever-changing circumstances of what's going on in the world around us, now is clearly not the right time to do that."

Paramount also shuffled the release of "Lovebirds" and "Blue Story." Few major releases remain in the coming weeks, with the notable exception of the Walt Disney Co.'s "Mulan." It's set for March 27 in the U.S. A spokesperson for Disney did not immediately comment Thursday. Also Thursday, the TCM Classic Film festival scheduled next month in Los Angeles was canceled due to coronavirus concerns. Canada's top music awards show was also called off as a precaution due to the pandemic. The Juno Awards were scheduled for Sunday in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

A part-time usher and security guard who worked at two Broadway theaters in recent days tested positive for COVID-19 and is under quarantine. Broadway is particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus because its audience skews older, thousands of people are packed into small seats for

every show and the industry is dependent on tourism. After extensive cleaning, Thursday nights show are to go on. The announcement Wednesday evening, while President Donald Trump addressed the nation, that Tom Hanks and his wife Rita Wilson had tested positive for coronavirus sent shudders through the industry. Hanks was easily the most famous person yet to publicly announce that he had the virus. He was in Australia to shoot an Elvis Presley biopic that Warner Bros. said would halt production. "Not much more to it than a one-day-a-time approach, no?" Hanks said of their condition.

On Thursday, "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" and "The Late Show With James Corden" joined other late-night talk shows in announcing they will tape without audiences. That followed similar decisions by CBS' "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert," NBC's "Tonight Show" and "Late Night With Seth Meyers," Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah," HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" and TBS' "Full Frontal with Samantha Bee."

CBS also said that production on the next season of "Survivor" was being postponed. "Jeopardy!" and "Wheel of Fortune" have also halted tapings with audiences.

The closures, postpones and hiatuses are likely to be enormously costly. The shuttering of Chinese movie theaters — the world's second-largest movie market has been closed for more than a month — has already led to the loss of more than \$1 billion in ticket revenue. Last year, global box office sales reached a new high of \$42.2 billion. For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover within a few weeks. □

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SAT	2:50 5:20 7:50 10:20
SUN	2:50 5:20 7:50

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PH	MON-THU	6:10 8:30
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	SUN	3:50 6:10 8:30
PBP	MON-THU	5:10 7:30
	FRI	5:10 7:30 10:00
VIP	SAT	2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
	SUN	2:50 5:10 7:30
PBP	MON-FRI	4:40 7:00 9:20
	SAT-SUN	2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

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PH	MON-THU	6:00 8:35
	FRI	6:00 8:35 11:10
VIP	SAT	3:25 6:00 8:35 11:10
	SUN	3:25 6:00 8:35
PBP	MON-THU	3:55 6:30 9:05
	FRI	3:55 6:30 9:05 11:35
	SAT	1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05 11:35
	SUN	1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

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PH	MON-THU	5:50 8:10
	FRI	5:50 8:10 10:30
	SAT	3:30 5:50 8:10 10:30
	SUN	3:30 5:50 8:10
PBP	MON-FRI	4:20 6:40 9:00
	SAT-SUN	2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
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	SUN	2:00 4:45 7:30
PBP	MON-THU	3:55 6:35 9:15
	FRI	3:55 6:35 9:15 11:20
	SAT	1:15 3:55 6:35 9:15 11:20
	SUN	1:15 3:55 6:35 9:15

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	FRI	6:00 8:20 10:40
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Hollywood shuts down, Broadway goes dark to curb virus cases

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The entertainment industry prepared Thursday for an unprecedented shutdown to curb the spread of the coronavirus, canceling upcoming movies, suspending all Broadway performances and eliminating live audiences from television shows until it's safe to welcome crowds back.

To accommodate calls for social distancing, Hollywood moved to pause the normal hum of TV productions and the bustle of red-carpet movie premieres. After New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo banned gatherings of more than 500 people, Broadway theaters announced that they would close immediately and remain dark through April 12.

The closures amount to a nearly complete halting of the industry, from Lincoln Center to Hollywood, and the largest-scale shutdown of many of the country's major arteries of culture. The upcoming "A Quiet Place 2" and the latest "Fast & Furious" movie joined the many postponements that have erased much of the upcoming movie release calendar. The Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center, the New York Philharmonic and Carnegie Hall all canceled events through March 31.

The dawning awareness of the virus' reach had already forced the cancellation or postponement of all major imminent events on the calendar, including the sprawling South by Southwest conference and festival in Austin, Texas; Hollywood's annual movie expo CinemaCon, in Las Vegas; this month's Kids Choice Awards in Los Angeles; the sunny California music festival Coachella, which was put off until October; and big television events like the NBA season, which was put on hiatus after a player tested positive for the virus. The NHL also suspended its season.

Earlier Thursday, California urged bans of not just the largest events but also



Empty ticket selling booths are seen as a couple buys discounted Broadway theatre tickets at the TKTSTicket kiosk, Wednesday, March 11, 2020, in New York's Times Square.

Associated Press

gatherings of more than 250 to help stymie the virus' spread. California Governor Gavin Newsom recommended the cancellation or postponement of gatherings of 250 or more people through at least the end of the month. That put a new focus on Broadway, multiplexes and smaller concert venues.

Hollywood still planned to usher in several new movies beginning Thursday evening at theaters. North America's largest chains, AMC and Regal, did not respond to emails Thursday. Cinemas have been closed in China, India, Italy, Poland, Greece and other countries.

John Krasinski, writer and director of "A Quiet Place 2," announced that his film from Paramount Pictures would not open next week as planned but be postponed to an as yet announced date. Universal Pictures announced that the "Fast and Furious" movie titled "F9" would not open May 22 as planned but in April next year.

"One of the things I'm most proud of is that people have said our movie is one you have to see together," Krasinski said in a message on social media. "Well due to the ever-changing circumstances of what's going on in the world around

us, now is clearly not the right time to do that."

Paramount also shuffled the release of "Lovebirds" and "Blue Story." Few major releases remain in the coming weeks, with the notable exception of the Walt Disney Co.'s "Mulan." It's set for March 27 in the U.S. A spokesperson for Disney did not immediately comment Thursday.

Across Hollywood, the usual machinations of show business, from auditions to rehearsals, were grinding to a halt. Apple's "The Morning Show" was among the many productions put on hiatus. Central Casting closed its offices. The TCM Classic Film festival, scheduled next month in Los Angeles was canceled.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame postponed its annual induction ceremony, scheduled for May 2 in Cleveland. It was to have been televised live for the first time by HBO. Posthumous inductees Whitney Houston and the Notorious B.I.G. were to be honored, along with Depeche Mode, the Doobie Brothers, Nine Inch Nails and T. Rex. Canada's top music awards show, the Juno Awards, was also called off as a precaution.

A part-time usher and security guard who worked at two Broadway theaters

in recent days tested positive for COVID-19 and is under quarantine. Broadway is particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus because its audience skews older, thousands of people are packed into small seats for every show and the industry is dependent on tourism. The announcement Wednesday evening that Tom Hanks and his wife, Rita Wilson, had tested positive for coronavirus sent shudders through the industry. Hanks was easily the most famous person yet to publicly announce that he had the virus. He was in Australia to shoot an Elvis Presley biopic that Warner Bros. said would halt production. "Not much more to it than a one-day-a-time approach, no?" Hanks said of their condition.

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For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover within a few weeks.

As of Wednesday evening, 38 people had died in the U.S., while more than 1,300 people had tested positive for the new coronavirus. Tolls have been higher elsewhere. In Italy, where more than 15,000 people tested positive and more than 1,000 people have died, all stores except pharmacies and food markets were ordered closed. □

Amaranth, barley, corn and more: the ABC's of whole grains



By **KATIE WORKMAN**
Associated Press

We all know by now that whole grains are good for us and that we should be eating more of them. Anyone who has dipped a toe (or spoon) into the world of farro, brown rice and quinoa also knows how satisfying and versatile the arena of whole grains can be.

But what are whole grains exactly, and which ones should you stock in your pantry?

The Whole Grains Coun-

cil, a nonprofit consumer advocacy group, defines whole grains as those that contain all the essential parts and naturally occurring nutrients of the grain seed. When grain is processed (for example, by cracking, crushing, rolling or cooking it), some of those healthy qualities can be stripped away.

Nutritionists have long touted the health benefits of whole grains. Especially today, when many people are cutting back on meat, whole grains can provide texture, flavor and often protein.

Some of the whole grains you might experiment with are amaranth, barley, corn (including popcorn!), oats, farro, sorghum, millet, spelt, bulgur, wheatberries, cracked wheat, quinoa, rye, teff, and brown and wild rice. Besides eating the whole grains whole, consuming things made with whole grain flours is another way to get at the good stuff.

Read labels carefully: Some products might say

"made with whole grains" or "made with whole grain flours" but the amount of whole grains in them might be very small. "Multigrain" is another possibly misleading term — multiple grains doesn't mean that all or even any of them are whole grains. Look for labeling that says "made with 100% whole grains".

Whole grains can star in a casserole or grain salad, be served up as a side dish, and bolster all kinds of recipes from meatloaves to fritters. The grains are often cooked before they're used in a recipe, usually in water or broth. They can also be used in baking, both savory and sweet. Whole grains soak up sauces beautifully, and can be made ahead and frozen. A handful of whole grains to explore:

Brown Rice: Switching to more brown rice instead of white is one of the simplest

ways to get more whole grains happening at the table. Brown rice is rice with the inedible outer hull removed but with the germ and outer layer intact. It is more nutritious than white rice, and has a denser, chewier, nuttier grain. It takes longer to cook than white rice, about 45 minutes, and the ratio of water to rice is about 2.5:1.

Quinoa (pronounced keen-wah) has been a star of the whole grain world for quite some time now. Although it might seem trendy and modern, however, it was a staple in the diet of the ancient Incas. Quinoa is actually a seed, but is treated and cooked like a whole grain. It takes beautifully to all kinds of seasonings and uses. When cooked, it has a light and fluffy texture, and a lightly nutty flavor. It's got a high protein count (8 grams in a half cup of cooked qui-

noa), a nice dose of fiber and is gluten-free.

Millet (actually, a member of the grass family) can be cooked as a cereal, made into flour, served as a side dish, made into pilafs or stuffings, you name it. It can even be popped like corn. It's rich in protein, fiber, vitamins and minerals, easy to digest, and has a slightly sweet, nutty flavor. Use millet in soups, salads and stews.

Teff, a mainstay of traditional Ethiopian cooking, is becoming popular worldwide. The grains are tiny, about the size of poppy seeds, but they are packed with fiber, iron, calcium and protein. You can use teff in many ways, cooked like oatmeal or polenta, or dry cooked in a pan and sprinkled on salads.

Farro is often called spelt in the U.S., where we are just discovering its charms, but the Italians have been creating farro masterpieces for centuries. The grain originated in western Asia. It is similar to barley, but denser and chewier. Farro is low in gluten, but not gluten-free. There is more than one way to cook it, even on the stovetop. Some people prefer cooking it like rice, with just the right amount of liquid to be fully absorbed. Others cook farro in a lot of water, like pasta, and then drain it.

Bulgur Wheat: A staple in Middle Eastern and Mediterranean regions, bulgur wheat is whole wheat grain that has been cracked and partially precooked. It's terrific in side dishes, soup, pilafs, casseroles and salads (grain salads and green salads alike). It can be added to meat dishes like kibbeh and meatloaf to boost nutrition and bulk them up. Many people have encountered bulgur as the backbone of Middle Eastern Tabbouleh salad. It is high in fiber, low in fat, with a nice amount of protein and a lovely nutty flavor. □

